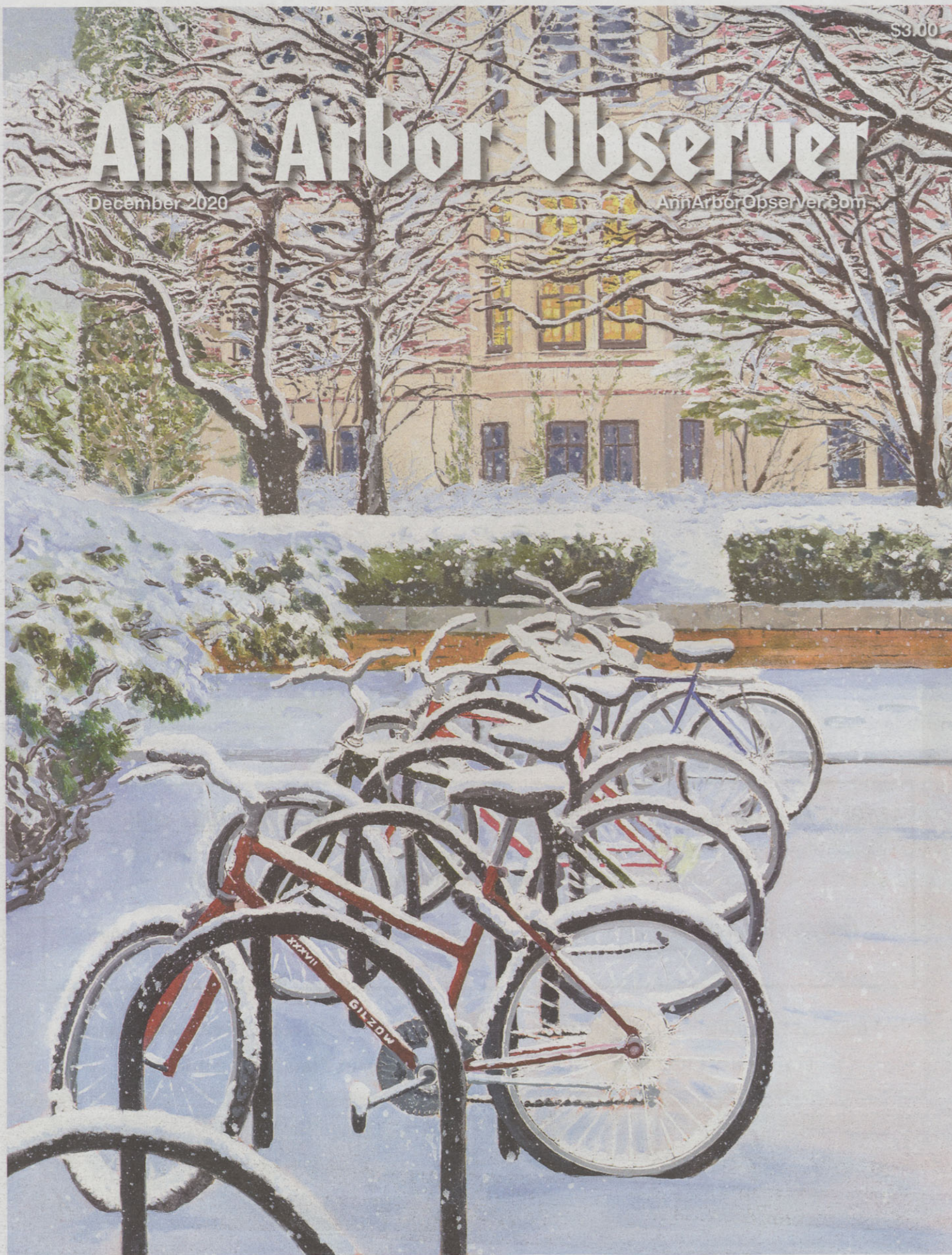


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December 2020

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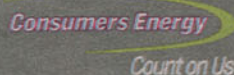
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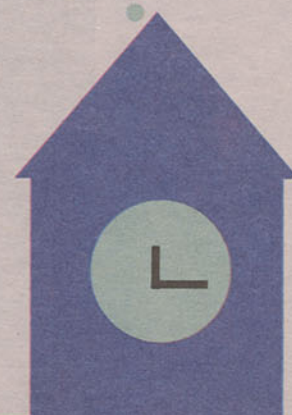
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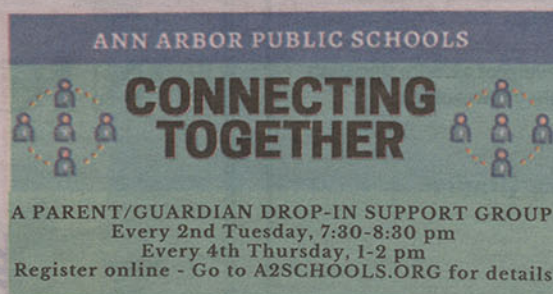
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## STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT

This school year has been unlike any in the district's 115+ year history. We are here to support students, families and the Ann Arbor community. Whether you are in need of a tutor, food assistance, warm clothing for the winter ahead, or just someone to talk to... WE CAN HELP!

Please visit our website at [a2schools.org](http://a2schools.org) for links to many resources.



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AAPS has distributed 16,650 devices and provided internet connectivity assistance to more than 650 families. The AAPS Student & Family Virtual Technology Helpdesk is available at 734-997-1222.

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Requests for technology support may also be submitted by email to [family\\_techsupport@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:family_techsupport@aaps.k12.mi.us)

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Special Education assistance is available by calling the hotline - 734-994-8292, M-F, 8am-5pm, as well from the many resources available through this website: <https://sites.google.com/aaps.k12.mi.us/siss-resources/home>



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**Election notes:** “We had reports of lines at seven o’clock in the morning,” says Washtenaw County’s unflappable elections director, Ed Golembiewski. “Those lines were by and large reduced and eliminated by eight a.m. There was a steady stream of turnout in person all day long, [but] there were never significant lines after that initial rush.”

A record 67,595 Ann Arborites cast votes for president, 10 percent more than in 2016. Despite Donald Trump’s attacks on voting by mail, 60 percent of Republicans and 86 percent of Democrats voted absentee. Countywide, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris polled 28,653 votes more than Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine four years earlier. Yet despite the huge numbers, Golembiewski says, “We were a hundred percent reported by 3:30 in the morning on Wednesday”—a bit sooner than in 2016.

Trump supporters filed, then abandoned, a lawsuit attempting to throw out the county’s votes. Golembiewski says he’s “very confident the results are a hundred percent accurate.” The bipartisan board of canvassers certified the results and congratulated city and township clerks on their “excellent job in managing all the elements of the November 2020 general election ... despite political passions running high and a pandemic.”

The election confirmed the winners of the city’s August council primaries, returning to power the alliance we call the “Activist Coalition.” Voters also renewed the city’s sidewalk repair millage, added one to close sidewalk gaps, and approved a twenty-year, one-mill affordable housing tax almost three to one. “I’m excited to see that our voters [proved] again that we’re the compassionate community that we say we are,” says Chuck Warpehoski, the former city councilmember who helped lead the housing millage campaign.

Voters added Ernesto Querijero and Krystle DuPree to the Ann Arbor Board of Education and returned incumbent Jeff Gaynor. The winners all criticized recruiting students who live in other districts to enroll in the AAPS—but Gaynor doesn’t see anyone moving to drop “schools of choice.” With 1,800 students, “it’s ingrained in the district,” he explains, “both in terms of the students that we have and the economic impact.”

All candidates in a four-member slate won election to the Ann Arbor District Library Board. When the pandemic ends, they’ll likely continue reimagining the system’s flagship building. “We have been working for years toward examining what to do at the downtown branch,” says returned board chair Jamie Vander Broek. “The most recent thing [was] how we pay for it. And then the pandemic happened.”

Tracy Van den Bergh will be the next Washtenaw County trial court judge. Eli Savit, who effectively won the county prosecutor job in the August primary, takes over in January. Savit wants to remake the prosecutor’s office and empty the county jail of everyone who’s not a threat—and in these pandemic times, that sounds good to reelected sheriff Jerry Clayton, too.

## Harbaugh headache:

After a string of crushing defeats, the U-M’s head football coach is staring down one of the worst seasons in the program’s history.

The year started with promise, as Michigan dismantled Top-25 Minnesota on the road 49–24. On WTKA, Sam Webb’s Thursday Roundtable was giddy with expectation. No, Michigan wasn’t about to beat Ohio State—but it sure looked like they could handle the rest of their schedule.

That glitter was fool’s gold. A week later, the U-M fell to a feeble MSU team, 27–24. Next came a 38–21 beatdown at Indiana—the Wolverines’ first loss to the Hoosiers in thirty-three years. In those games, Michigan gained fewer yards rushing than it amassed in penalties.

Against Wisconsin at home in Game Four, the Wolverines had more turnovers in the first quarter (two) than yards gained (one). The Badgers put up a 28–0 lead at halftime—the largest such deficit in the history of the Big House—on their way to a 49–11 win.

Most of the Michigan fan base has given up on Harbaugh, and the national pundits are gloating. Six years after his arrival, the program looks no more dynamic that it did during its three years under Rich Rodriguez, or four years under Brady Hoke.

Worse, athletic director Warde Manuel has no good options at hand. After three reversals of direction under as many coaches, who could be hired who is even likely to be better?

Michigan will owe Harbaugh \$10 million if he’s fired before his contract ends in 2021. Manuel could, of course, just let the contract expire and hope that 2021 will be better, but then Michigan is pretty much conceding a year or two of recruiting classes. Extending Harbaugh’s contract at a more realistic price than

his current \$7 million per year would avoid that—but doubling down on the status quo is unlikely to make 2021 very appealing to fans.

Are 110,000 people likely to sign up for a season of possible beatdowns (and

maybe a trip to the Covid ICU) when they may have discovered other things to do on fall Saturday afternoons? Raking the leaves may be more compelling.

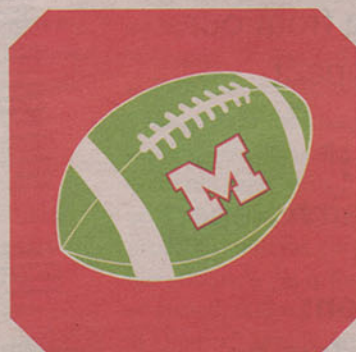
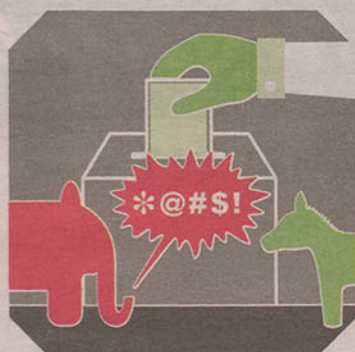
**Nomadland:** When the credits roll at the end of the new film, *Nomadland*, local organic food fans might recognize some names. Emily Foley, one of the coproducers of the film which stars Frances McDormand, has another career as a farmer.

She lives in Brooklyn, MI, with her partner, Edwin King of Frog Holler Farm. Both of them, along with the rest of the King family, are familiar faces at the farm’s produce stall at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. Angie Martin and Nick Raterman, who catered the film, are also familiar to local food and music fans as the chefs at Holler Fest, the annual August music festival on Frog Holler’s grounds.

Foley, as head of development at Hear/Say Productions, says she worked on logistics, location scouting, casting, and doing a “multitude of other things along the way” including her first, small, on-screen role, “which was quite terrifying.” Martin and Raterman cooked for cast and crew out of the back of a rental van during filming in five Western states, “in food deserts, as well as literal deserts.”

Based on Jessica Bruder’s 2017 nonfiction book of the same name, *Nomadland* is described as “docu-fiction.” It follows a woman in her sixties (McDormand), who, after the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, takes off in a van, traveling and living outside the boundaries of conventional society. Bruder chronicled real people who live this kind of nomadic lifestyle in her book, and some of them show up in the film.

Foley and King attended the outdoor premiere at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena in September. Reluctant to fly, they did what the characters in *Nomadland* do: they drove, living out of their car and camping in national forests along the way.



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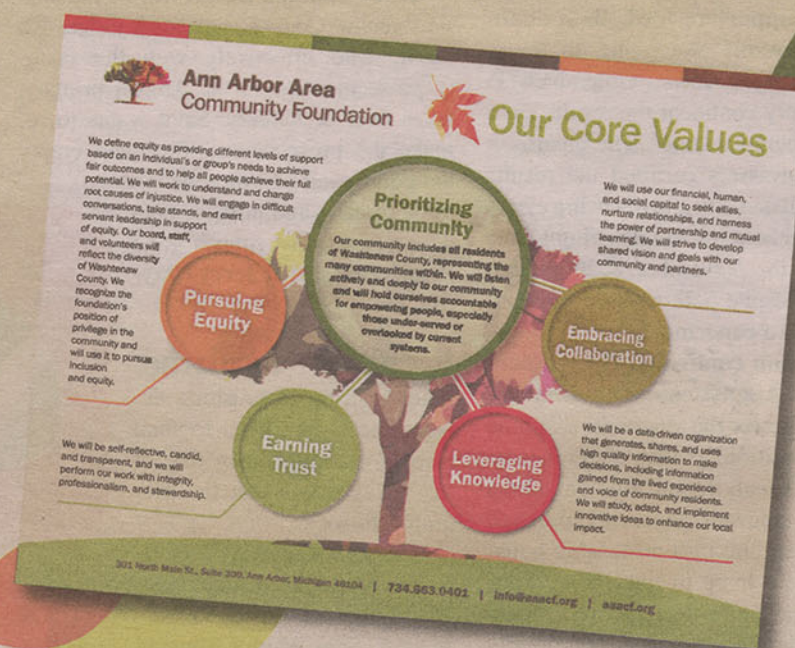
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## AAACF PRIORITIZES COMMUNITY

AAACF has adopted new **Core Values** to guide our service to all of Washtenaw County, centered around **Prioritizing Community**.

See our website ([aaacf.org](http://aaacf.org)) and learn more from trustees and staff about examples of our values in action:

- **Pursuing Equity:**  
The EmpowerMENT Fund
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- **Embracing Collaboration:**  
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# Inside Ann Arbor

## Faster Testing

*Machines made on Eisenhower Pkwy. are evaluating nearly a million Covid-19 tests a month.*

In February, the leaders of NeuMoDx Molecular Systems realized that a global pandemic was underway. In just three weeks, the local company adapted its medical diagnostics devices to test for the virus that causes Covid-19. On March 20, it applied for emergency use authorization from the FDA, and got the approval ten days later.

At the time, the machines were being used mainly to test blood for viruses like hepatitis B and C, for sexually transmitted diseases, and for pathogens that could pose a threat to transplant patients. Since then, "everybody who had [the device] before has converted" to Covid testing, says NeuMoDx president and COO Sundu Brahmasandra, with most new orders also due to ceaseless coronavirus testing demand. "From April onwards, 99 percent of our testing has been Covid."

NeuMoDx (pronounced new-MOD-X) has been so successful that in September Dutch diagnostics giant Qiagen, which was already handling NeuMoDx sales and service in Europe and other global markets, exercised an option to buy NeuMoDx, paying \$248 million for the four-fifths of the company it didn't already own. For local venture capital firm Arboretum Ventures, which invested in NeuMoDx in 2012 and 2014, the sale "was our single largest cash return," says Arboretum founder and managing partner Jan Garfinkle. Garfinkle calls Brahmasandra and NeuMoDx founder Jeff Williams "the best of the best" in the molecular diagnostics industry.

Williams formed what was then Molecular Systems Corporation in 2010; Brahmasandra, a chemical engineer, arrived in 2012 to develop the company's product line. Its two automated testing devices went on sale in 2018, one capable of loading ninety-six patient samples and the other 288.

Both machines employ a liquid-handling robot to move patient samples and chemicals known as reagents in and out of various chambers, including tiny "microfluidic" channels barely a thousandth of an inch wide. They can isolate, amplify, and detect pathogen genetic material in whole blood, plasma, urine, saliva or nasal swab.

NeuMoDx's devices are unique, says Brahmasandra, for their combination of high capacity, or throughput, and their speed. Other machines offer one or the other, but not both. The larger device can process 300-plus samples in an eight-hour work shift, with the first results appearing within forty to eighty minutes.

COURTESY NEUMODX



NeuMoDx's larger machine can evaluate 288 patient samples at a time. Production has quadrupled since the pandemic began.

About a dozen institutions in the U.S., and more than eighty in other countries, use NeuMoDx machines for Covid testing, including Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, and Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. A recent paper in the *Journal of Clinical Virology* showed the NeuMoDx system, at three different institutions, to be at least as accurate as standard manual methods for Covid testing, and far more efficient. Johns Hopkins cut its overall Covid test turnaround time in half, from twenty hours to about ten, after introducing the NeuMoDx device. "We use other automated systems currently for diagnosis, but the NeuMoDx has been the most heavily used," emails Hopkins pathologist Heba Mostafa.

NeuMoDx has quadrupled its production of testing machines since the pandemic began. Working in two buildings in the Eisenhower Commerce Center, roughly 220 employees now turn out about twenty a month. Output of kits of reagents and consumables has increased tenfold, to 700,000 to 1 million tests a month.

It could have been more, Brahmasandra says, if not for shortages of everything from reagents to machine parts to the pipette tips that the robot uses to transfer fluids. Given those bottlenecks, Brahmasandra says, "there's only so much we can do." And the U.S. still doesn't have nearly enough rapid Covid testing capacity to effectively blunt the virus.

Brahmasandra believes that America's Covid-19 testing debacle could have been averted. "A pandemic like this illuminates again the importance of having a supply chain that's efficient and reliable and protected," he says. "It would have been a much safer world if we had been able to scale the diagnosis up front, and use it in larger settings or more widespread settings."

NeuMoDx is Brahmasandra's second successful local company. A native of Bangalore, India, he earned his PhD in chemical engineering in the U-M lab of Mark Burns in 2001. The previous year Brahmasandra and a fellow grad student from India, Kalyan Handique, founded HandyLab to develop a portable "lab on a chip" to analyze DNA, capitalizing on investor interest in a prototype device they first reported in the prestigious journal *Science*. That project never bore fruit, but the company, with Williams as CEO, did eventually market a successful automated diagnostic testing machine. Becton Dickinson bought HandyLab in 2009 for \$275

million. Within a year, the medical device giant announced that it was closing the local HandyLab offices and moving operations to Maryland.

There's no sign that Qiagen plans anything similar for NeuMoDx, says Brahmasandra, who points out that the company has actually hired about thirty local workers since the acquisition, with no layoffs. The only departure was Williams. "It was Jeff's decision to leave, and let Qiagen basically take over the leadership of the company," says Brahmasandra. (Williams did not reply to emails.)

In the short term, NeuMoDx seems safe, given the exploding demand for its products amid the pandemic. The Ann Arbor company "is definitely a strong pillar of growth that we see a lot of potential for at Qiagen," says Robert Reitze, Qiagen's senior manager for public relations. "And so there's no indication that anything like [layoffs] will occur."

HandyLab's other co-founder, Kalyan Handique, also helped build a second successful local medical diagnostics company: in 2011, he joined founders Priya Gogoi, Saadeh Sepehri, and Chris Siemer at Celsee Inc. The company, whose products enable researchers to capture and analyze individual cells, was sold in April for \$99.3 million.

## Therapist Barred

*Michigan regulators finally suspended the license of Ann Arbor social worker Jo Benson.*

"We count on our licensees to interact with the public with honesty and integrity," wrote Orlene Hawks, director of the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in a press release.

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## Inside Ann Arbor

"When they don't, we must move quickly to make sure that the public is protected from those who don't follow the law."

Benson's license was suspended for "deceptive advertising": she had promoted herself as a fully licensed therapist when she had only a "limited" license requiring her to work under supervision. But the action was hardly quick—a former colleague first warned LARA about her in March. And Hawks did not explain why Benson was granted a license in Michigan just three months after surrendering her license in Oregon—for the same offense.

In Oregon, she was known as Emily Clark—and as a serial cheater in marathon races ("The Reinvention of a Therapist," June 2020). The name change doesn't explain how she slipped past Michigan regulators, though, because she applied as Clark and only later told the board she'd changed it.

The new name did mask her checkered history from prospective clients. As Benson, she promoted herself online as a private practice therapist in Ann Arbor, working with abuse and trauma survivors and women who'd been shamed for body size.

The ease with which she escaped her disgrace in Oregon dismayed Wayne Scott, who supervised her there until discovering her deceptions about credentials. In May, he told the Observer that to get a full Michigan license "she would have had to have submitted paperwork signed by me (which she couldn't possibly have gotten)."

Benson apparently bypassed that obstacle by applying for yet another limited license—and once again flouting its requirements. Benson did try at least once to get a supervisor—but that suburban Detroit therapist, who asked not to be identified, told the Observer that Benson led her to believe "that this supervision was for additional hours required due to issues with the license transfer and that she was already a fully-licensed clinician in Portland." After reading our story, she ended the arrangement.

"I feel very shocked that this was so well hidden," said the therapist. "I value transparency working with clients and survivors and hope this level of secrecy is, one day, not an option in our licensing system."

In comments on the online version of the article, social workers and former clients expressed alarm that she was still allowed to practice. One client said the therapist had told her a sexual assault she'd experienced was her fault because she was overweight. But even as Scott and another former boss in Oregon, Andrew White, repeatedly complained to LARA, the department's online database gave no warning of any problems. White says he was told that "her license shows as clean since there were no 'formal complaints' against her ... I wrote back asking why the four complaints I filed were not 'formal complaints.'"

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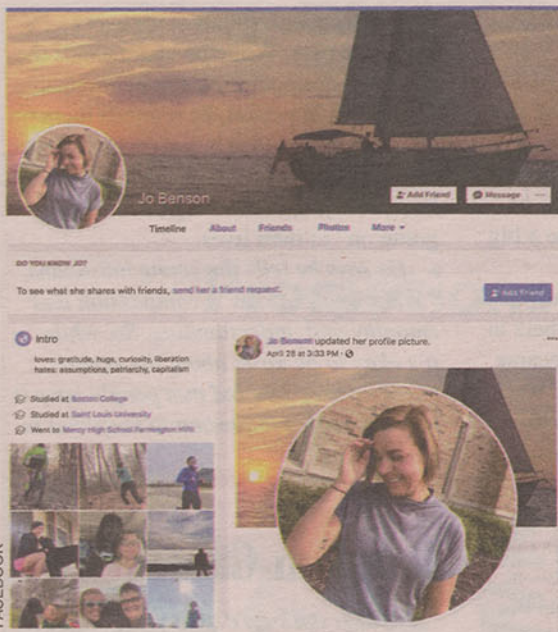


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Behind Benson's idyllic online presentation was a trouble history under a different name in Oregon.

White ended up doing some of the board's investigative work for them. In July, he sent the Michigan board Clark's Oregon license surrender paperwork. "The investigator I talked to said they had never seen it (even though I had sent it to the board months before)," he emailed.

Despite the suspension, as the Observer went to press Benson continued to promote "shame, anxiety & body liberation for all" on her Instagram account, all.your.truth. On the account, which claims 1,363 followers, she endorses "117% Health at Every Size" (HAES) and calls for a stop to "diet culture or victim blaming BS."

In an Instagram video, she says she loves being a therapist and will continue her practice while taking graduate public health courses at U-M because its program is HAES-friendly. The university registrar's office confirms that she's enrolled there.

Oregon's regulators took even longer than Michigan's to act: White first complained about Clark more than three years before she surrendered her license to end an investigation there. He believes the

states' slow response is "indicative of how we don't treat mental health as seriously as physical health."

Though state licensing boards are charged with protecting the public, they "allowed this to go on for quite some time, even with direct evidence of misdeed," he says. "I don't really understand how they allowed that to happen."

## Different Steps

The Michigan Marching Band performed two shows this football season—but not in the Big House.

"Everything's completely virtual," says MMB director John Pasquale. The 268 student musicians, flags, twirler, and drum major are recording individual performances that are being digitally stitched together.

Pasquale describes the first, originally intended as a live half-time show, as "a celebration of the incredible people on the front lines and the health care workers, and a tribute to those who are gone." "Hail to the Frontline Heroes" was due to be released November 28.

Pasquale and band members wouldn't say much about the content of the second show, "Bringing Back the Big House," scheduled for release to coincide with the OSU game on December 12. But "we've been recording marching and music, playing toward the camera," says tuba section leader Sara Jex, including pieces composed by the band members themselves. "We'll put them into a big audio file, mix it, and create the final product."

Jex says she "had the opportunity to dress up in the uniform and come into Revelli Hall in a socially distanced manner and record with a green screen in



Walter Aguilar created videos to teach marching, and he and a small group of musicians got a photo op at the stadium with masked instrument. But he will graduate as the only drum major in the history of the Michigan Marching Band who hasn't performed at a football game.



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## Inside Ann Arbor

the background." But most students, she says, "are recording in their homes ... or outdoors somewhere, or on our practice field with some of their housemates or roommates. And so it's going to be a big collage of everywhere."

Drum major Walter Aguilar's responsibilities include drilling band members in marching. Last summer, once it became clear that there would be no "band week" practices, he made his own videos to demonstrate the movements. "I spent dozens and dozens of hours at local high schools, basically whatever was open—that was a challenge, finding places that were open. I was all over the place—at the beginning of the summer, it was Pioneer, then it ended up being at Saline. I also recorded some shots at Chelsea. And toward the end, once or twice, at Skyline. The Big House wasn't open. Elbel wasn't open. So we had to be creative. But it worked out."

Pasquale points out that Aguilar will graduate as "the only drum major in the history of our program who hasn't performed at a football game." He was allowed into the stadium for a socially distanced photo shoot with the flags, but otherwise the closest he and the other band members have come to a game is hearing recordings of their "stand cheers" playing in the background during televised games.

Has it been hard for the musicians to keep their spirits up during this losing season? "Even though the team is working through their game performance, the MMB fully supports them and the coaching staff, unequivocally," says Pasquale.

He adds that they also have a mission to make music as an ensemble, for themselves. "In terms of the experience, what we're doing is trying to make the best out

of a pretty tough situation for everybody," he says. While he understands the students' disappointment at being unable to perform in person, he reminds them "that our experience is just inconvenience compared to those who have lost their lives, or a job, or have significant issues going on" in their lives.

He says he tells the young musicians, "What we need now is compassion and empathy and understanding. So, while it's okay to be upset about the experience, we keep in mind that people have it way worse. It's important to keep that in perspective."

## Random Games

"Americans are playing more games than ever, thanks to Covid," says Michael Steer.

He should know. Steer not only spends his days and nights playing games, he and Garry Donner invent them under the banner Random Games & Toys.

"This is a better job than anyone could possibly imagine," Steer says—though the business is "feast or famine. We've had several periods when we've made a lot of money, followed by very dry spells when we don't make much."

Donner and another partner launched the company in 1974—and ran out of money in 1976. That's when Steer, a computer engineer, joined the company. He and Donner both worked at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and took the same commuter train to Detroit—"we played games together on the train and at lunch," Steer recalls. "I agreed to become a partner, but I can't say I really expected anything to come of it. We were outsiders in the toy

business, and none of us had ever worked for a toy company." Soon after, Donner's original partner left.

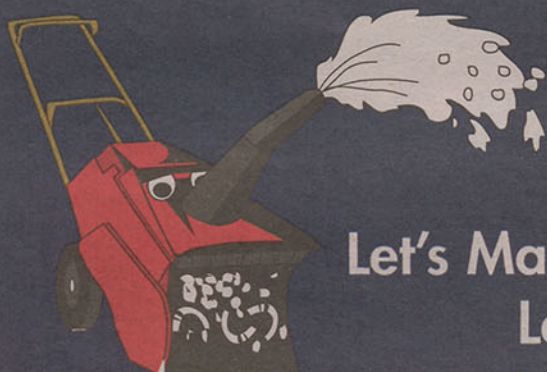
Random finally licensed its first games in 1979: a "heroic fantasy board game" called *Wizard's Quest*, and *Poker Royal* by Hoyle. But it was *Pocket Trivia*, in 1984, that really jump-started the company.

According to Bob Moog of manufacturer University Games, until the early 1980s companies shied away from games with questions players could answer only once. But when *Trivial Pursuit* took off, Random Games & Toys introduced simple decks of cards that offered long lists of questions and answers on each side. Hoyle bought it and sold ten million



COURTESY RANDOM GAMES & TOYS

"We were outsiders in the toy business, and none of us had ever worked at a toy company," recalls Michael Steer (left, with partner Garry Donner). Millions of copies of their games have been sold.



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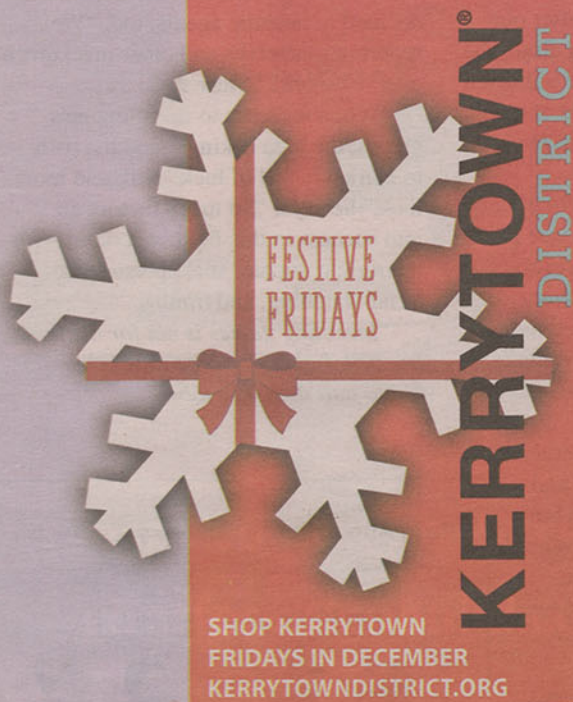
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## Inside Ann Arbor

decks in two years. "We asked everyone we knew to come up with questions and answers, promising to pay them if we used their questions," Steer recalls.

Based on the strength of *Pocket Trivia*, Donner gave up his day job in 1985. Soon after, at the annual American International Toy Fair in New York, a Mattel vice president was so impressed with a new Random game that he offered a \$100,000 option if Random would refrain from showing it to anyone else.

Steer immediately quit his day job. But "the VP was fired shortly after our agreement, and we never saw a dime," he says, shaking his head. "So, we tightened our belts and arranged for a line of credit while we still had earnings from *Pocket Trivia*."

In 1987, the company brought in only \$18,000, but eventually persistence paid off. "We went through a lot of reserves before we sold *Travel Baffle Memory*, a matching pairs game that offered more than 100,000 possible board layouts," Steer says. "Hasbro loved it and sold a ton of them."

Random's games take an average of thirty to sixty hours to develop and then much more time to sell. "The business has changed over the years," Steer says. "We have fewer companies to show product to, but new ones are popping up on a regular basis."

The business cycle begins in the fall, when they present games to manufacturers for the next year's Christmas season. They firm up contracts in the spring and spend July and August thinking of new products for eighteen months in the future.

"One thing we're very successful at is inventing extensions of existing franchise games," Steer says. "We came up with *Travel Memory*, *Travel Candy Land*, *Travel Chutes and Ladders*, and *Express* versions of *Scrabble*, *Monopoly*, *Clue*, and *Sorry*."

And they've been very lucky, he says, that "a number of our games have stayed on the market a long time." *Tumblin' Monkeys*, where players try to remove sticks from a plastic tree without dislodging the cocktail monkeys hanging from them, has sold fifteen million copies over twenty years.

"Most inventing starts in your head, and pretty quickly it's reduced to a playable game," Steer says. "We start with three-by-five-inch cards because most of our games are knowledge-based—*Tumblin' Monkeys* is the exception."

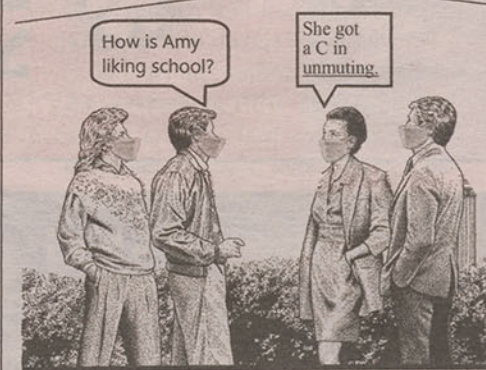
When inventors began asking for help selling their games, Donner and Steer decided to become agents, too. "We represent ourselves and other inventors all over the world," Steer says.

"When it comes to inventing new games, the idea is king—and the path to market is full of luck, skill, and more luck," he says. "So many factors go into success in this field: a good fit with the right company, luck, persistence, trend-watching, and timing."

*"Inventing games is not for the faint-hearted. I always advise new inventors not to quit their day jobs."*

## Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan



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Pipeline pigs have been used as plot devices in three James Bond films. There has been no announcement of Bond film production in our area.

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## calls & letters

### Lonely Republicans

In online comments, several readers suggested that local supporters of Donald Trump were protesting too much about being persecuted, noting the president's incendiary statements and pointing out that Biden backers, too, were harassed in the runup to the election ("Lonely Republicans," Inside Ann Arbor, November.)

In an email, Judy Cohen added that Roger Kuhlman was only temporarily barred from Nextdoor.com. We should have specified that he told us he was banned for a month.

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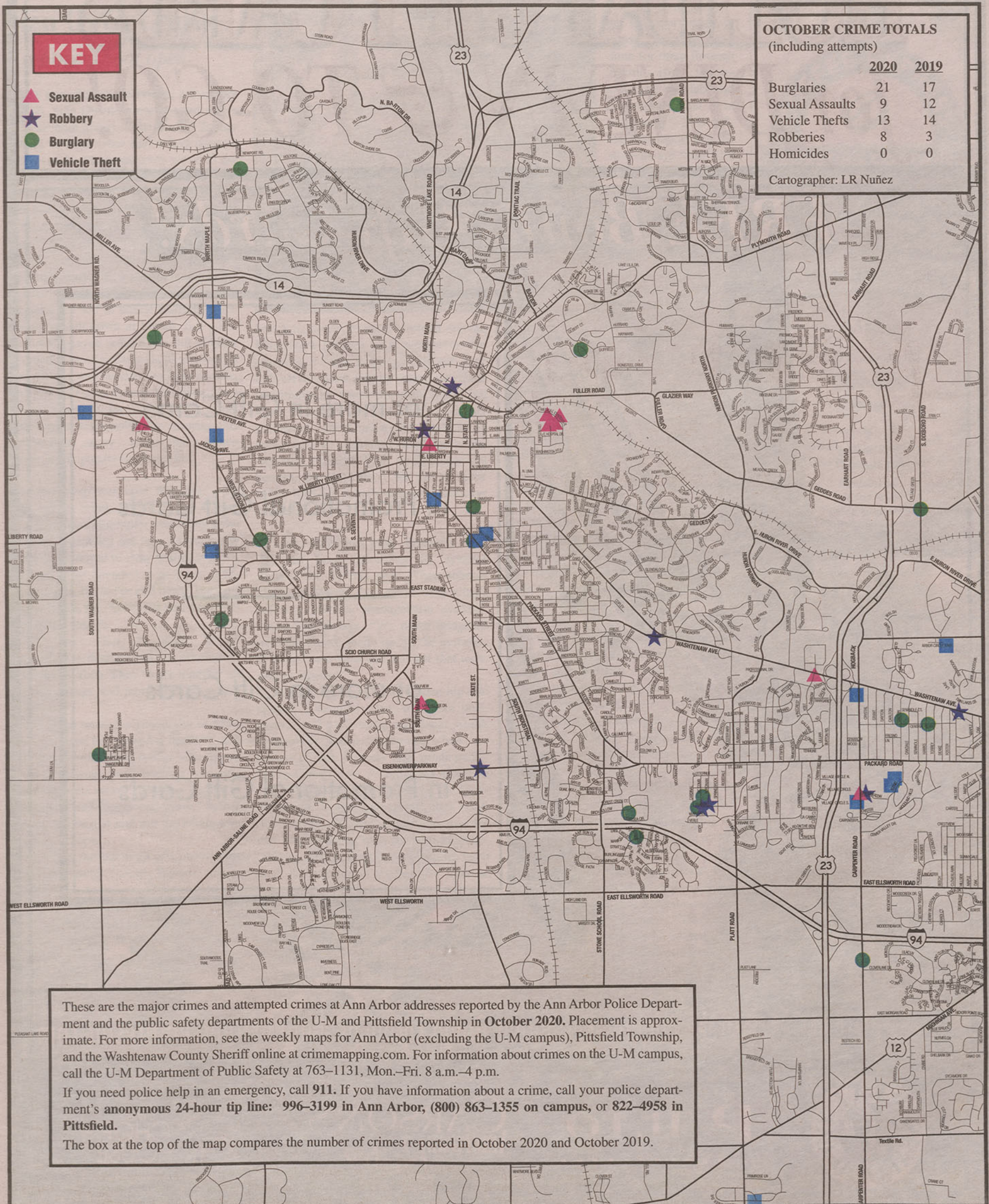


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## Siân Owen-Cruise

### Keeping school open

At two o'clock on Friday, November 6, Siân Owen-Cruise learned that a seventh grader in the Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor had tested positive for Covid-19. "I immediately wrote to the health department contact that I'm supposed to, and I said, 'this has happened, and here's what I plan to do,'" recalls Owen-Cruise, administrator of RSSAA's Lower (preK-8) and Upper (grades 9-12) schools. The entire eight-student "pod" immediately started a two-week quarantine.

Like the Ann Arbor Public Schools, Steiner switched to online learning when Michigan shut down in March. But while the AAPS stayed remote this fall, Steiner resumed in-person classes at its schools on Newport Rd. and Pontiac Tr. Owen-Cruise, who ran the Upper School for seven years before taking the top job in 2017, is the person most responsible for ensuring this can be done safely—a task that's grown harder as the pandemic intensifies.

Siân Owen was born fifty-five years ago in South Wales in the United Kingdom. Her father worked for Dow Corning, and when she was in fifth grade he was transferred to Dow headquarters in Midland. "We intended to go back in fifteen months, but we're still here," she says with a laugh, the Welsh lilt still very evident in her speech.

She met her husband, David Owen-Cruise, during freshman orientation at Michigan Tech. They "were together all through college and married as soon as I graduated."

She went on to the University of Minnesota, where she earned a master's and PhD in communication studies. She stayed on as an assistant prof, teaching nontraditional students who "needed a leg up to bring them into higher education," before leaving to teach at and run the Minnesota Waldorf School.

Based on the teachings of Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner, Waldorf education seeks to balance students' academic, social, emotional, and physical development. Owen-Cruise says she encountered Steiner's ideas in grad school, and "was very taken with the way in which he viewed human beings as not just a thinking, walking, producing kind of a being, but instead a much more complex, artistic, soul-based, caring, community kind of a being."

Her daughter, Morgan, was a fourth grader at the school when Owen-Cruise started. When she finished eighth grade, she wanted to go to a Waldorf high school, so they moved to Ann Arbor so she could attend RSSAA.

Owen-Cruise didn't immediately apply there herself—she says she felt her daughter "needed independence and freedom and a little time without her mom



breathing down her neck." Instead, she ran Washtenaw Success by 6, a collaborative organization that helps parents get their kids off to a good start by connecting them to community resources, preschools, and more. But once Owen-Cruise's daughter graduated—she's now a PhD candidate in computational chemistry working at the Argonne National Lab in Chicago—"it became the right thing for me to move to the RSSAA, which was what I always wanted."

Like everyone else, Steiner's staff has been rebuilding its systems on the fly this year. When schools closed in March, "we didn't have what's called a learning management system," Owen-Cruise says. "We never imagined we would ever need one. In the summer, of course, we went out and got that technology in place."

But she and the school's leadership also created a detailed return-to-school plan. Based on CDC, state, and local health department recommendations, "we co-herded all our students into small pods," Owen-Cruise says. "They don't mix with other children during the day at the Lower School. At the high school, they're allowed to be together outside, because we can more reliably trust them to keep social distance without oversight care. Each class has a group of teachers for three or four weeks. It means they're not exposed to seven or eight teachers in a week, only three." And they reconfigured both campuses to shrink classrooms to six or seven students, even moving the seventh and eighth grades from Newport to the high school on Pontiac Tr.

All Michigan high schools, including Steiner's, reverted to online education when Gov. Whitmer's "Pause to Save Lives" took effect in November. But the Lower School stayed open, and Owen-Cruise was glad the Upper School continued as long as it did. She says that Rudolf Steiner's leaders had felt "our responsibility for these young people was to have them together for as long as possible."

To explain why, she points to Steiner's twelfth-grade chemistry class. When the school had closed earlier this spring,

students could no longer fully participate in class. "The labs were done for them through Zoom—the teacher doing the lab and explaining what was happening." This fall, teachers report that the students are "like fifth graders again, in the excitement of being in the lab, actually touching things."

She is quick to point out that her school community was in a "uniquely fortunate position to reopen." With just 309

students, "we can work with families and teachers and together come to a plan for reopening that all families could support." Because they'd recently expanded the high school campus, they had space to spread out. And "we do not have to deal with the wide range of practical needs that the public schools have to address. It has become so clear in this crisis how much more than an education our public-school partners are providing—meals for students, for instance. We only needed to solve the practical problems around reopening in the pod structure. Finally, our faculty have been very supportive of reopening, with the precautions that we have taken, so we were able to staff our in-person classes."

A week after that first Covid diagnosis, the student was fine, and no one else in that pod had fallen ill. But then another student got sick, and another pod went into quarantine.

With Covid infections at record levels around the country, Owen-Cruise says, she can "hear the drumbeats—the stakes are higher." As the Observer went to press, a statewide order closed the high school, and Steiner leaders decided to extend the Lower School's planned Thanksgiving vacation a second week. They plan to reopen both this month.

After the pandemic itself, what concerns her most "is how to support the faculty and staff through a dramatic increase in their workload," she says. "They have no prep time. They have no release time at school." And with smaller classes, "at the Lower School, they're all teaching the main lesson twice every day. If they get a thirty-minute break to eat lunch and use the restroom, they're lucky."

"This is my biggest concern: how people hold enthusiasm and joy and morale. But what I see every day is that they're doing it."

After an extended three-week break over the holidays, they plan to be back in class in January—the state and the pandemic permitting. But whatever happens, she says, "We will do the right things for our children."

—Sandor Slomovits

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Photo: Wendell Pierce and Charlie Robinson in *Some Old Black Man*

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Written by James Anthony Tyler

Directed by Joe Cacaci

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
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Photo: Takács Quartet

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## Confessions of the Rock Fairy

*Sharing hope on cable boxes*

It was early April, in the first days of Covid, when I came upon the small stone on top of an outdoor cable box near the driveway of a neighbor's house. Painted on its face was a burst of yellow sun and a hand-lettered message: *Happy Spring*.

I looked at the house and wondered who lived there. How were they able to still be optimistic during this time of coronavirus? Did they panic just thinking about grocery shopping, as I did? Or were they able to keep their calm, as the stone suggested? Back when we were locked down and the days of the week blurred, coming across that pretty little stone seemed almost miraculous to me. The sheer normalcy of it—a welcome sign of spring—was almost hard to believe.

I'd been working from home since mid-March, and every morning before I logged onto my computer, my husband and I went for a walk. Our path was simple: down Gladstone Ave. and around Ember Way. The area was as familiar as the back of my hand, as well it should be; we'd lived in the neighborhood for eighteen years. And yet, discovering the small stone made me take notice in a way I hadn't before. Had the blue-green door two houses down from us always been that color? Did the people in the white colonial fly the U.S. flag every day? Had that patch of crocuses on the corner, their petals like baby-bird mouths, been there as long as we had?

I considered those questions and others as our walks pressed into April and May. By then people had started to emerge from their Covid hibernation, happy to be able to do something—anything—other than stare at the TV in horror as doctors Fauci and Birx warned us of the virus, as Andrew Cuomo detailed the number of deaths in New York.

As summer approached, we waved to the other "outdoor" people, and they waved back. We talked, six feet apart, to neighbors we'd never met. We learned that Terry liked to walk his dog, Lu, around the same time in the morning as we did; that Rob and Dea had moved onto Gladstone only two years ago; that Susan, the retired lawyer down the street, had the same full name as my first cousin.

One day in June I picked up a rock from the street. It was misshapen and dirty, but it was big enough for my purpose. As soon as we got home,



COURTESY OF MARY REXER-BLUHM

I washed the rock and dug through my desk in search of the old painting pens my stepdaughter used as a kid. I scratched first with the pink painting pen, then the neon green one, and finally a scruffy and badly drawn watermelon emerged on the stone. With a black pen I added, *Happy Summer*.

The next day on our walk I set that stone on the green cable box next to the one that said *Happy Spring*. It made me ridiculously happy.

When we returned to the house, I immediately went online and ordered a kid's stone painting kit. I didn't stop to think that I'd never been trained as an artist, that the last thing I had painted was a bedroom wall. All I knew was that I had a new purpose: I was supposed to paint stones for the neighborhood.

So I did.

I painted birds and peace signs and faces and fairy houses, but mostly I painted flowers. Happy, hopeful flowers. And each morning on our walks I'd take the painted stones from the previous night and place them on all the green cable boxes I could find.

Soon there was talk of a mysterious "Rock Fairy" in the neighborhood. A few people told me how happy it made them to see the stones, how fun it was to find new ones. I listened and agreed and didn't tell them it was me who painted those rocks. That wasn't the point.

And it really wasn't me, anyway. It was that one, hopeful, courageous family on Ember Way with their first *Happy Spring* stone who'd given me back a bit of joy. I was just passing it on.

It's almost winter, now, and the painted rocks will soon be buried under snow. Already the autumn rains have taken their toll, but that's okay.

There'll be plenty of new painted stones ready for next spring.

—Mary Rexer-Bluhm



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**IN JUNE, THE U-M** released its plan for a “public health-informed fall semester.” It would be shorter, with no mid-semester break and on-campus instruction ending at Thanksgiving. Classrooms, laboratories, and work spaces would be reconfigured. But the “Ann Arbor campus will open its residence halls for housing and dining, and will offer many on-campus programs and activities that enhance the college experience,” president Mark Schlissel wrote. “As the nation’s top public research university, we have an opportunity to show the world that this can be done.”

Schlissel, an immunologist, was frank that new infections would always be a risk until there was a vaccine or effective therapy. But he expressed “cautious optimism” that “basic public health strategies including social distancing, minimizing out-of-area travel, wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, symptom screening, clinical testing, contact tracing and quarantine [will] add up to a highly effective way to limit spread of this illness, allowing students to pursue their Michigan education.”

In August, 6,000 students moved into the residence halls and many more into off-campus apartments. Fraternity, sorority, and co-op houses filled up. And some students partied like it was 2019. In mid-October, the *Michigan Daily* reported that “about fifteen” sorority members came down with Covid after attending a September fraternity party.

The count of weekly infections on the university’s online coronavirus dashboard never passed forty over the summer. In mid-October it hit 411, on the way to a monthly total of more than 1,300. Ninety-nine percent of the cases were undergraduates, 61 percent of whom were living off-campus.

University contact tracers needed to reach everyone who’d been near the infected students to warn them to go into quarantine. But after weeks of rising case numbers, “we were exhausted,” recalls

Jennifer Nord, the senior environmental health specialist in charge of case investigation and contact tracing for students on the Ann Arbor campus. Her team of about ten full-time tracers aimed to reach 75 percent of possible contacts within twenty-four hours, but with so many infections, she says “we didn’t know how we were going to possibly reach all of these students.”

So Nord reached out to the Washtenaw County Health Department and its team of about fifteen investigators and tracers for help. “All of the public health nurses and the sanitarians and everyone that they have on their team just jumped right in,” she says. “I felt like they just saved us.”

Public health officials also acted decisively to limit the spread. First, the uni-

versity ordered the entire Mary Markley residence hall into lockdown to control an outbreak there. Soon after, the WCHD issued a stay-at-home order for all undergraduate students, on and off campus.

With the entire undergrad student body effectively quarantined, the combined contact tracing teams caught up within a week. “I think it was on November first that they were able to provide some metrics that indicated that the numbers of the students on campus [with Covid] were going down,” says Nord.

But while infections on campus stabilized, they were spiking off-campus. The WCHD’s dashboard tracked 500 the first week in November and 739 the second week—an all-time record. By mid-month, thirty-seven county residents were hos-

pitalized with Covid-19, the most since April.

Even before the students returned for the fall semester, social media posts had warned that they could bring the pandemic with them. At the end of October, someone hung a homemade banner over the M-Den on Main St. that made the accusation directly: “UM brought this outbreak here.”

**A**lmost since the university’s founding, townies have expressed mixed feelings about the sometimes rowdy hordes of young people it brings. But never before have they been shunned as plague bearers.

Yet even some students agreed. In early November, the *Michigan Daily* published “An Open Letter to Ann Arbor” by LSA junior Andrew Pluta. “I’m sorry for the incorrigible damages that University of Michigan students have caused your community,” he wrote. “I’m sorry that some of us have been unable to wear masks for a few hours with friends, while you wear a ventilator indefinitely, wondering if you will live to see your friends and family ever again.”

In fact, contact tracing revealed that the widespread belief that students were a major vector of transmission to the wider community was false. “There’s not much indication of off-campus spread,” Nord says. “We can see where the students are touching the community and how often that happens. And, to be honest, it’s not nearly as often as we thought.”

Pluta’s self-indictment was an exception. Far more often, the *Daily* shared students’ frustration over what they saw as a lack of clarity and consistency about safety measures and testing early in the semester. In a November interview with the *Daily*, Schlissel explained that delays in test results had made testing ineffective, so “commercial testing in the early days of the semester would not have helped us.”

Faculty, too, were sharply critical of how the pandemic was handled; in Sep-

COURTESY JENNIFER NORD



# PANDEMIC U

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## PANDEMIC U



COURTESY JENNIFER NORD

JANE NICKERSON (L., WITH SPRING QUI-  
NONES) OVERSEES CASE INVESTIGATION  
AND CONTACT TRACING FOR THE COUNTY.

tember the faculty senate passed a symbolic vote of no confidence in Schlissel. Graduate student employees, residence hall advisors, and dining hall workers all raised safety concerns during short-lived strikes.

The administration fared better in its own survey. Approximately 14 percent of the faculty responding in October indicated that the virtual medium was ineffective for what they taught. But 63 percent somewhat or strongly agreed that they felt confident in the strategic direction of the university, and 85 percent said the semester was going as well as or better than expected.

And by the simplest metric—the goal to hold in-person classes till Thanksgiving—the university's plan nearly succeeded. "I think that we deserved, as a community, a chance to try our very best to have a good mix of remote, in-person and hybrid classes, and to have as many people as possible remain healthy and make it through the end of the semester," Schlissel told the *Daily*. "So I don't regret trying."

The caseload for Nord's team remains high. She is continually training new team members to replace those who burn out or have to return to their regular jobs. With infections at record levels, the caseload for the county contact tracing team also ballooned. In early November, reports WCHD public information officer Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, they had more than 450 active contacts and were adding fifty to 100 new, non-household contacts per day.

Overwhelmed, the department announced it would prioritize investigations of cases involving children, seniors, and individuals at higher risk. Rather than waiting for a contact tracer's call, it's urging anyone who believes they may have been exposed to Covid-19 to self-quarantine immediately.

But what finally cut the fall semester short was not infections among the university's own students or even the local community. It was a terrifying resurgence

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of the virus statewide. On November 15, governor Gretchen Whitmer announced a three-week "Pause to Save Lives."

"If we don't act now, thousands more will die, and our hospitals will continue to be overwhelmed," Whitmer warned. "We can get through this together by listening to health experts once again and taking action right now to slow the spread of this deadly virus."

Narrower than the spring shutdown, the "pause" nevertheless closed restaurant dining rooms, theaters, and all high school and university classes. It took effect November 18, three days before the scheduled end of on-campus instruction.

The university reminded students living in campus housing that they were "expected" to get tested before leaving for their permanent residences; those living off-campus were "strongly encouraged" to do so. A posting on Reddit described a quarter-mile-long line outside the Michigan Union as they lined up to be tested.

As planned, classes and exams will continue remotely until December 18. But though some in-person classes will resume on January 19, many students will not be back for winter term.

or who have no other place to live, will be allowed in campus housing. The dorms will be "de-densified," with only single rooms.

"The university is encouraging all undergraduates to remain at their permanent residences next semester, including our students living off-campus," spokesman Rick Fitzgerald emails. "Public health data from this semester showed that the spread of Covid-19 was intensified in high-density, congregate-living settings like residence halls and high-density off-campus housing. High-density housing also contributed to more of our students having to quarantine or isolate themselves once a roommate tested positive."

While the move away from congregate housing seems justified given the rate of spread and poor compliance with Covid safety measures, the October survey found that many undergrads prefer some in-person instruction. If the winter semester were fully virtual, 8 percent said, they would take the semester off, and another 17 percent said they weren't sure.

Most, however, said they would like to remain in the Ann Arbor area. Fraternities and sororities expect to remain open. "We have no information saying that chapter

## CONTACT TRACING REVEALED THAT THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT STUDENTS WERE A MAJOR VECTOR OF TRANSMISSION TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY WAS FALSE.

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* in May, Schlissel predicted that the winter term would look much like the fall. "Any decision we make for this coming fall is likely going to be the case for the whole academic year," he said. "What's going to be different in January?"

Quite a lot, it turns out. As criticism mounted in the fall, Schlissel, provost Susan Collins and vice president for student life Martino Harmon led a campus-wide engagement effort that included surveys, focus groups, and meetings with students, faculty, and staff, as well as consultations with Nord's team and WCHD leadership. And its approach to the winter semester will be far more conservative.

According to the winter plan, there will be "more serious consequences for those who violate public health policies ... Social gatherings of three or more on campus living in residence halls will result in automatic probation, and public health violations by students in quarantine or isolation housing would mean automatic University Housing contract termination. Off-campus students who are determined to have engaged in these behaviors would be referred to the Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR), the Washtenaw County Health Department or both."

Labs and classes where in-person attendance is required for certification will still be held. While transmission in the fall was overwhelmingly in social settings, both faculty and grad student instructors expressed fears of contracting the virus in class, so next semester, no one will be forced to teach in person. And only students with in-person classes,

housing is closing," says Nicole Banks, associate dean of students and interim director of fraternity and sorority life. "They'll remain open and try to de-densify, and they have strategies about what to do if someone becomes ill." And the *Daily* reported intense competition for winter-semester sublets.

Many parents support their students' desire to stay in Ann Arbor. According to an employee at a student housing management company who asked not to be named, they're expressing "a general sense of sadness, almost grief, because they feel like their kids have been robbed of their senior years of high school and freshman year of college."

But after being stuck with pre-pandemic leases this year, parents and students are less certain about next fall. This hesitancy is starkly reflected in renewal rates, which the employee says are down by two-thirds to three-quarters from a typical year. He's hearing from managers at other rental companies that instead of being fully leased by December, they are now only hopeful they may be fully leased by March of next year.

While the university can't control students in off-campus housing, it can regulate their use of its facilities. In the winter term, all who live on or frequent campus will be required to take weekly Covid tests—and this time, Schlissel says, there will be enough to stay ahead of the virus. "We're now at a capacity around 9,000 or 10,000 tests a week," he told the *Daily* in November. "And by the time the new semester begins, we'll be up to 12,000 to 15,000, and if we need to, we can go further than that."

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# Giving in the Time of



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

**Local nonprofits have never needed more help—or been more needed.**

by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

**I**n my twenty-five years working in the nonprofit world, I've never experienced anything nearing this magnitude," says Mel Drumm, executive director of the Hands-On Museum. "Right now, we're mothballed and wondering when and how we can keep going. I fluctuate between optimism and feeling crushed. I'm sure other nonprofits are on the brink of disaster."

"Saying that Covid-19 was a perfect storm for us is an understatement," admits Helen Starman, chief development officer for Food Gatherers.

Since the pandemic hit in March, local nonprofits have been in crisis mode, struggling to meet escalating needs with shrinking budgets. December is historically the month when they can count on supporters to give most generously. This year, however, many past donors are themselves out of work, on reduced hours or salaries, homeless, or confronting life-threatening illness.

As usual, the nonprofits are calling donors and flooding email in-boxes with seasonal appeals for help. But with the time of giving coinciding with the time of Covid, "we are all waiting anxiously to see what year-end giving brings," says Diana Kern, executive director of the Legacy Land Conservancy.

**F**ood and shelter. Economic relief. Education. The arts and the environment. Based on interviews with local nonprofits, that appears to be the order in which people here are allocating donations.

When the pandemic hit last spring, followed by Michigan's first lockdown, the number of people desperately needing food skyrocketed. According to Starman, 40 percent of the families turning to food pantries were first-timers. Food insecurity among children doubled, due to unemployment and school closings.

Infection-prevention protocols slowed food handling and distribution, and there were fewer hands to do the work. Most of Food Gatherers volunteers were seniors, the group most vulnerable to Covid-19. The food supply chain was uprooted—restaurants abruptly closed, so Food Gatherers had to find other sources.

"Meanwhile," Starman adds, "we were called upon to distribute record-breaking amounts of food immediately." Smaller pantries, which once served thirty families weekly, now serve 300. Larger pantries have seen numbers grow exponentially. "Our longtime steadfast supporters continued or increased their giving, but we also saw new donors contribute—the pandemic brought hunger to public attention," Starman says. "We are immensely grateful for the help we've received, but we need to remind people that the needs continue."

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Washtenaw United Way announced a \$1 million fundraising goal to meet Covid-related needs. It was exceeded within weeks. "We're a small organization, but we work big—and we're busier than ever, trying to make sure our community's needs are being met," says WUW president and CEO Pam Smith. In some cases, the United Way's charitable giving turned upside down. Some corporate supporters have shut down or had to cut back and lay off employees. "Now we're serving the

"The term 'hands-on' feels toxic right now," says Hands-On Museum executive director Mel Drumm. "We lost two-thirds of our budget and staff."

very people who supported us" in the past, Smith says.

Demand for mental health services has escalated—"and it's easy to understand why," says Marnie Leavitt, executive director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan. "We're social beings. Anxiety rises when we don't have people around to check out our thoughts and feelings."

Within a week of school closures in March, the center moved its mental health counseling, job coaching, and financial counseling services from in-person to online and phone conferences. Clients with disabilities who had been struggling with transportation issues actually benefited from the changes, Leavitt adds. Thanks to loans and grants from local foundations, the center has been able to serve more people this year than last, and it is planning to open a civil law clinic. Individual donations dropped—"but we attribute much of that to the change in tax laws and election contributions," Leavitt says. She hopes to regain those donors.

SOS Community Services has seen a 30 percent rise in the need for food services, supportive housing, and children's services, reports Rhonda Weathers, executive director. The biggest challenge for the organization, which is dedicated to ending homelessness and promoting family self-sufficiency, now lies in children's services—"the new challenges related to families' isolation."

SOS, like the Women's Center, quickly moved client contacts from face-to-face to Zoom and phone sessions. But the staff is swamped, Weathers says, with "urgent needs for social and mental health ser-



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## Giving in the Time of COVID

vices." And with its food pantry closed, SOS volunteers now deliver supplies. "Now we assemble bags after asking about key items: meat, dairy, diapers," Weathers says.

When the pandemic started, SOS sent an urgent request to its donors. The United Way offered \$15,000 immediately. SOS also secured a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan. Its fall fundraiser, "Road to Home," went virtual, with a \$200,000 goal; donors sent \$340,000.

The local Red Cross chapter also saw donations increase as soon as Covid hit. "People know we're first responders for all kinds of disasters," says regional CEO Mary Lynn Foster. But the Red Cross faced a loss of senior volunteers, the closings of traditional blood donation centers, and new health protocols.

Therapeutic Riding is an adaptive horsemanship nonprofit with fourteen horses. "They need feeding, attention, and care, whether we provide services or not," points out executive director Tammera Bollman. "There is no 'lock the door and save the expenses' option for us." Though people who supported them in the past with "medium-size gifts" continue to do so, total donations are down substantially, Bollman says. "There is understandable competition for dollars from organizations that offer life-giving food and shelter." And because they can't guarantee when they'll be able to provide services, "grants requested for new or modified programs have been declined."

Nonprofits responding to health care needs beyond U.S. borders are struggling to secure funding. The pandemic hit donations to the Ann Arbor-based Haiti Nursing Foundation "fairly hard," says executive director Thom Bales. A longtime supporter came to the rescue for now, he says, but "we are concerned about the next eighteen months."

As soon as the lockdown was announced, the seven-member staff of Washtenaw Literacy—plus two Americorps Vista workers and two interns—transformed the agency from an in-person service to a virtual learning portal.

The tutoring group lost huge chunks of revenue when partner jails, schools, and Washtenaw Community College closed their doors. "But foundations are generally coming through for us, and our base of donors has been consistent and heroic," says executive director Amy Goodman. "The pandemic has raised awareness of what we do. We're the only agency addressing adults' educational needs."

Professionals unexpectedly confined to their homes offered their services as tutors. And a recently launched program called LIFT—"Learning Is a Family Thing"—

## Hunger Emergency Hits Washtenaw County Spike in COVID-19 hits area neighbors hard.

**As government restrictions tighten to contain the spread of COVID-19, more local people struggle to get enough food.**

People who work in hourly jobs have been hit hardest by the economic downturn since the pandemic started. Food requests at SOS are up 30% compared to this time last year. Efforts to stop the second wave of COVID-19 will make the need for emergency food even more critical in the weeks ahead.

SOS's Executive Director, Rhonda Weathers, said: "We will likely see that SOS families are more deeply impacted by the Pause to Save Lives order, as all high school students will be learning from home and several services

they rely on are shuttered once again."

You can make sure that people who are out of work and kids who are out of school have access to free, healthy groceries this winter. Please make a donation to feed the hungry.

Last spring, SOS began distributing food outside to keep everyone safer from COVID-19. Now it is too cold to distribute food outside. People who need food will schedule their visit in advance and drive up to collect their groceries curbside.

"With the winter coming, I am really concerned about how we are going to keep up," said Tracey Anderson, SOS's food pantry coordinator. Please help.

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101 S. Huron St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197.
- Text sos to 56651.
- Donate online at [cbo.io/d/sos](http://cbo.io/d/sos)

provided a major assist to parents and teachers during school lockdowns, helping low-income families who often have no experience with technology or teaching.

Like other organizations, Peace Neighborhood Center regrouped to respond to pandemic needs. "We had to change the way we deliver our services," executive director Bonnie Billups, Jr. says. "Normally, we have 150 volunteers tutoring students after school in three centers. Now we liaison with schools, work with 100 students in person during the day, offer virtual educational support for another seventy daily, and regularly check in with families."

He says that the community has been "extremely generous." Like several food kitchens, Peace received stimulus checks passed on by people who wrote, "You need this more than we do. I've been amazed and gratified to see how many people came to us and asked how they could help."

As soon as schools closed, the YMCA launched learning labs, redesigning spaces in its center to accommodate social distancing, reassigning and rediscovering staff members' talents. "Our individual donors are different this year, but our membership came through for us, continuing to pay their dues even when our facilities were closed," says Liz Conley, vice president of mission advancement. "Even though we didn't have as many classes or camps for children this summer, our revenue increased by 10 percent, thanks to new sources."

**T**he term 'hands-on' feels toxic right now," sighs Drumm of the Hands-On Museum. "We lost two-thirds of our budget and staff. It's going to take time to recover—and we may not completely recover until 2024."

Typically, attendance accounts for 75 percent of the museum's revenue, donors 25 percent. But "local donors have stepped up in major ways," Drumm says. As with other organizations, individuals offered matching grants to help during virtual fundraising appeals.

In March, the museum pivoted to virtual programming, designing science kits that are distributed at the Leslie Science & Nature Center. The full-time staff was reduced from forty-nine to eighteen, and thirty part-timers lost their jobs.

"We had worked really hard to build and train the most incredible staff," Drumm says. "We tried and tried to hold onto them, but when our PPP ended, we had to let them go, along with their institutional memory. Every week I worry about how, or if, I'll meet the next payroll."

"We are incredibly grateful to our community for continuing to support us however they are able," adds Leslie Center executive director Susan Westhoff. The center cut staff and salaries and shifted programming to meet stay-at-home educational needs. "Many families have donated \$5 or \$10 when they register for our free online programs," Westhoff says. However, like other arts and environmental organizations, the science center has lost larger gifts, as foundations and individuals prioritize direct Covid relief—"so we continue to look to any and all options for support."

So does the Michigan Theater. Despite laying off all part-time workers and one-third of staff members—with the rest taking voluntary pay cuts—"we are looking at close to \$2 million in lost revenue," says chief development officer Lee Berry. "We remain very grateful for our donors. Unfortunately, this year's giving is not nearly enough, because Covid has changed everything."

Fundraising used to cover 35 percent of the theater's budget; now it has to cover 75 percent. "The theaters were closed for seven months," Berry points out. "That meant no revenue from movies, rentals, or concessions." They reopened at 20 percent capacity, only to close again when infections rose and Governor Whitmer declared a three-week "Pause to Save Lives" in November.

"Some amazing heroes saved the Michigan Theater in 1979, and another group of heroes saved the State Theatre in 2014," Berry says. "We need some new heroes here in 2020."

**C**ovid has been tough on us," admits Kern of the Legacy Land Conservancy. "Some of our corporate donors and smaller foundations have told us they are shifting their giving to respond to basic human needs."

She's reduced staff and salaries, reconfigured ways to get work done, and shifted its STEM educational programs from streamside outdoor laboratories to virtual science programs and projects.

Pre-Covid, funds had been allocated for three large conservation projects, Kern says, so those won't be affected. "We're circling the wagons. We'll likely weather the crisis, but will we continue our work on pace? No."

The Huron River Watershed Council faces the same funding challenges, as some foundations redirected philanthropic funds. "But others continue to support environmental concerns," says executive director Rebecca Esselman. "Our financial situation was strong going into the crisis—I know that's not the case for all nonprofits." With individual giving "holding steady," she is "anxious—and cautiously optimistic" about the council's big year-end campaign.

The United Way's Pam Smith echoes the sentiments of all nonprofits: "No matter how much the gift—\$1 or \$100—every donation helps. Smaller gifts add up to a big impact. We all need community members to give their treasure, their time, and their voice, as advocates."

"My concern is that this pandemic is going to continue for many more months," Billups of Peace Neighborhood Center points out. "Can our community continue to support us at this, or an increased, level?"

"Since March, nothing we thought we knew has held true," Starman of Food Gatherers says. "We are all putting into place the best practices we know—but what happens with giving this year is a guessing game."

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# The Zingerman's Times

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december 2020

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land of a thousand flavors

## Holiday Gifts They'll Never See Coming

Times' gift bureau searched high and low to find unique gifts for this utterly unusual year. What the bureau has uncovered could elevate you to world's-greatest-gift-giver status in your inner circle. These gifts are as easy as a few clicks to purchase—think of this list as the Times' gift to you.

**A 2021 dream trip!** Guided culinary tours to gastro destinations like Piedmont, Mallorca, Denmark, Tel Aviv, Budapest and more with Zingerman's Food Tours. **Browse trip photos and itineraries at [zingermansfoodtours.com](http://zingermansfoodtours.com).**

**Artisan food clubs!** Give them great food, on repeat. Zingerman's Mail Order offers two dozen food club choices such as coffee, gelato, bacon and many more. **Salivate over the options at [zingermans.com](http://zingermans.com).**

**32 lessons on life and leadership!** Keep them inspired and learning for a solid six months with this collection of pamphlets from local business author and Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzwieg. Includes a copy of the latest, "Humility: A Humble, Anarchistic Inquiry." **Order at [zingermanspress.com](http://zingermanspress.com) and [zingtrain.com](http://zingtrain.com).**

**Online baking classes!** Heat things up in their home kitchen. Give a virtual baking class from Zingerman's Bakehouse so they can learn how to make their favorite treat, such as Sour Cream Coffee Cake, Magic Brownies, Bagels, Challah and more. Cross your fingers they pay it forward with a sample of what they made. **See the schedule at [bakewithzing.com](http://bakewithzing.com).**

## the coffee that comes once a year

If you're thinking about what to drink when you dive into a nice piece of holiday pie, consider checking out the annual holiday blend from local roaster Zingerman's Coffee Company. Anonymous sources inside Zingerman's shared with Times investigative reporters three secret ingredients in this year's blend:

**Colombian Asprobalboa** from a co-op of family farms near Balboa. It brings hints of citrus and caramel.

**Brazil Espresso Blend #1** from Datterra Estate in Brazil. Sustainably grown with a big, well-rounded flavor.

**Costa Rica** from the Hacienda Miramonte farm. A naturally-processed coffee. Adds sweetness and a rich, velvety body.

Owner Steve Mangigian says, "First, the coffee tastes great! Second, it showcases some of the best relationships we have in coffee—we know these producers personally. It would be safe to say that this year's Holiday Blend is a beautiful homage to the support they have given us!"

**Available at Zingerman's Coffee, Deli, Roadhouse, and [zingermans.com](http://zingermans.com)**

## New Caviar Cream Cheese Uncovered at the Creamery

From the rivers of Uruguay to one of the U.S.'s leading University towns, a new cross-continent collaboration from family-owned Black River Caviar and Zingerman's Creamery has arrived—Caviar Cream Cheese! While it's a 5,000-plus mile trip from Montevideo to Michigan, the Times has observed the two organizations are closely connected when it comes to values: commitment to quality, community and sustainability. Black River is both a farm and producer, which means their caviar is farm-direct. Fed from sustainable sources Black River has full traceability on their fish and caviar. Black River built their farm on the banks of the Rio Negro channelling 50 million gallons of water through their fish basins daily, allowing the fish to swim in fresh, well-oxygenated water, not in recirculated (closed) water systems typically seen in most sturgeon farms. Happy and healthy fish means better caviar! One local foodie told the Times, "Pairing Black River's amazing caviar

with the Creamery's world-class handmade Cream Cheese is a terrific way to get a nice little bit of unexpected luxury into an affordable format." Times taste testers liked it best on toasted Bakehouse bagels, rye bread, baked potatoes and omelets.

**Available at Zingerman's Creamery and Deli**



## hanukkah family feasts to-go

Local families are looking forward to celebrating the holidays and staying connected to traditions, which for one local establishment starts with the food, of course. However your Hanukkah will look this year, Zingerman's Deli is offering to do the cooking. The Deli's Hanukkah menu is available for pick up or local delivery. Here's a peek at what they are serving up: Beef Brisket & Gravy, Lemon Thyme Roast Chicken, Spiced Vegetable Tagine, and Mustard Caper Salmon. Each meal includes roasted asparagus with lemon vinaigrette, citrus salad with pomegranate arils and Zingerman's Creamery fresh goat cheese, and Zingerman's Bakehouse rolls with Michigan farm butter. Also on the menu are Hanukkah-only specialties like sweet potato latkes with spicy peanut sauce, citrusy olive oil cake and gold and silver dusted chocolate gelt.



**Order at [zcob.me/hanukkah](http://zcob.me/hanukkah)**



## Local Venue now open for Private events

In a bright spot during a challenging time for our local business community, the Times has learned that Greyline, Ann Arbor's downtown space for custom events, is now booking winter weddings and private parties for up to 50 people. According to a recent poll of couples and event planners, these are the reasons they choose Greyline for their special occasions:

- 35% service and safety
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## zingerman's recipes at home

Zingerman's has released even more of their sought after recipes in a trio of cookbook(lets) from the Bakehouse: *Cup or Bowl?*, *Breezy Breakfasts* and *Fancy Schmancy Holiday Cookies*.

Co-author and bakery co-owner Amy Emberling tells the Times, "[the booklets] blend history, stories, and our dedication to traditional methods and flavorful ingredients with easy-to-follow recipes we've developed over the years. The booklets are co-created by bakers, instructors, historians, photographers, and designers." Sources at the Southside are saying the booklets were designed by Zingerman's creative team and printed locally. These cookbook(lets) are reported to bring comfort and creativity to your kitchen.

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# Restaurant Reviews

## Bellflower

*Ypsi's new destination*

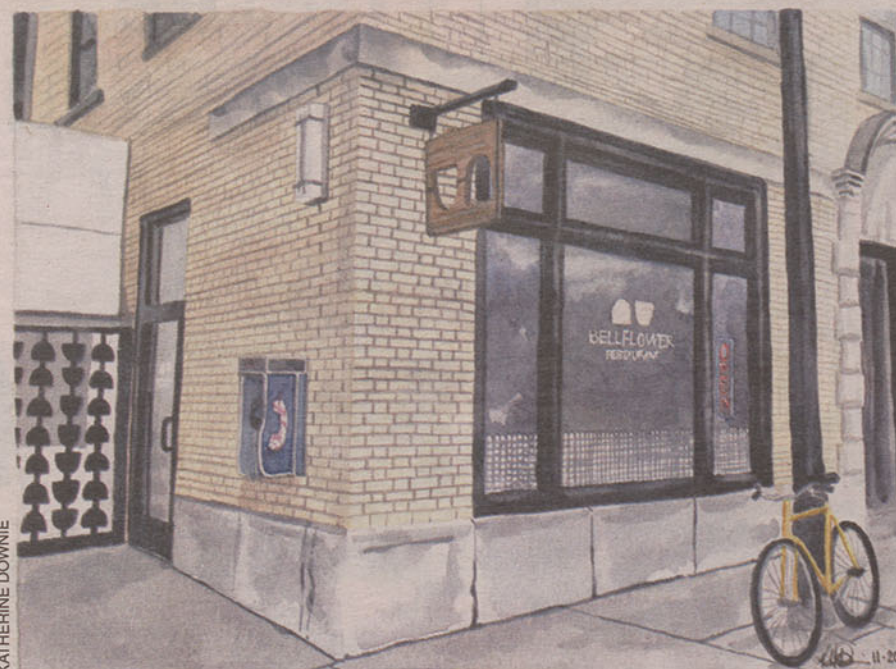
Autumn glowed glorious in Michigan. Despite the pandemic, despite the volatile election, despite the world's general malaise, the summer's hard, white, overhead glare gave way to amber warmth. The trees and wild grasses, outlines sharpened against horizons sometimes sky blue, sometimes swirling with clouds the color of bruised figs, blazed brilliantly. It was a season of natural beauty that moved and soothed.

My spouse and I bookended this memorable fall with visits to Bellflower, one of our area's newest restaurants. Located on Pearl St. across from the bus station in Ypsilanti, it's hosted in a former Michigan Bell exchange outpost—one of the inspirations behind the restaurant's name. Bellflower is also the common name for *campanula*, a plant family whose members sport bell-shaped blooms in blues and whites.

On our first visit to Bellflower, returning home from a quick trip up north in mid-September, we heard this origin story from Mark Maynard, one of the restaurant's three owners and a longtime Ypsi booster on his blog, markmaynard.com. Masked, yet friendly, Maynard was making the rounds of patrons sitting in the handsome enclosed and exposed patios that open up off the side of the building. (Then, as now, state orders forbade indoor seating.) He and Wurst Bar co-owner Jesse Kranyak bought the burned-out building in 2016 and spent four years renovating it. (Upstairs are a cluster of small studio spaces called Landline Creative Labs.) "But do you have any restaurant experience?" I asked, surprised, internal eyes wide, continuing the question silently, "opening in the middle of a pandemic, what are you *thinking*?" He reassured us that he was learning quickly, aided by Kranyak and chef Dan Klenotic, late of Sava's and Wurst Bar.

That evening's meal was a wonderful cap to our early fall getaway. There's a slight Louisiana flair to Klenotic's changing menus, necessitated by lunch's po'boys (more on that later), so we eased into dinner with cocktails and briny rounds of raw and roasted oysters, skipping options of pimento cheese, boudin, and red beans and rice. The roasted oysters arrived alongside a mustardy-dressed salad, and wrapping the hot bivalve and its garlicky breadcrumbs into a cool lettuce leaf made for a heady bite. Sweet sea scallops, given an Asian twist with lime slaw and peanuts, followed for my husband, and I enjoyed pork collar, grilled, with greens and roasted potatoes. We had arrived home, but the vacation wasn't over.

With autumn closing, we snuck in another visit on Halloween evening. Covid, of course, had been



KATHERINE DOWNIE

surging in Michigan, so although the stylish dining room was open, I insisted we sit outside in the uncovered patio, bundled in layers and under the distant flames of a propane heater. With my brother joining us this time, we piled on the appetizers. Roasted oysters again tempted us, as did cured salmon and warm roasted beets in a snazzy dress of ginger beer and butter. A mistake brought us smoked salmon cakes instead of the cured fish, but such a happy error! What had read as a ho-hum offering surprised us with its rich, buttery flavor, finely complemented by tart caperberries and herbaceous celery leaves. The cured salmon also quickly surfaced, and we were again pleasantly surprised, this time by presentation—the fish chopped tartar-like with hardboiled duck egg rather than sliced.

Hot Fish/Whole Fish, a fried, unfilled specimen, sometimes red snapper, sometimes white bass, was outstanding. The crispy skin dazzled the tongue with fiery spice without overwhelming the moist, meaty chunks of flesh, and okra and cooling pickles provided contrast to the center element. Sautéed scallops, this time a riff on biscuits and gravy with collard greens, were fine, but less inspired than the earlier version. Chunks of chicken thighs took on the Asian cloak this time, sautéed with loads of peanuts and less hot pepper than advertised.

We were all intrigued by dessert—a chocolate cake lightly sweet and imbued with more than a passing acquaintance with the saltshaker; likewise, the puddle of softly whipped cream sitting next to it. We enjoyed the dish, but others might have described it as dessert usurped.

Right now, lunch is a to-go menu of po'boys and sandwiches served on Klenotic's homemade milk bread. (Strictly speaking, you can eat your sandwich inside, but there's no service and the food is wrapped for take-out.) The large chalkboard near the entrance lists the options, and you can watch the cooks prep for dinner and make your order at the open

kitchen that lines the walk back to the dining room.

When discussing what to serve for lunch, the owners settled on po'boys as an unfilled need in the Ypsi area, and the consequent demand for oysters and shrimp drove the southern bent of the dinner menu. While the sandwich loaves were just too much bread—not an uncommon problem with po'boys—neither my husband nor I could complain about their fillings. Delicious fried breaded oysters—or in my husband's case, oysters and shrimp—spilled out in generous numbers. There's also a vegetarian option, a chicken boudin sandwich, and a muffaletta.

In the darkness of a colder season, those visits to Bellflower stand out, a bright bloom in a somber year. Since October, the restaurant has offered an intriguing list of wines for sale on its website. Beginning election week, it included a few badly need cocktails and a set weekly dinner to go.

As the unenclosed patio option ends, the owners intend to continue offering limited dining room seating as long as the health department allows it; they will then have to decide whether to expand take-out to more options or to include the entire dinner menu. However you can experience Bellflower, I hope you do. And I hope Bellflower, like its perennial namesake, survives to rebloom again and again.

—Lee Lawrence

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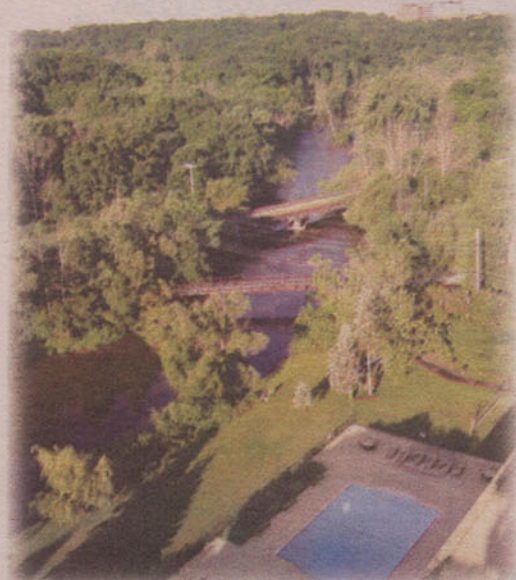


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# Marketplace Changes

by Micheline Maynard

## Eat Comes to Kerrytown

*With a testimonial from Joe O'Neal*

On a cold October Saturday, Kerrytown Market & Shops owner Joe O'Neal and his artist wife, Karen, traded their usual market-day spot in the center's courtyard for brunch at a tented table alongside the center's parking lot. "Best French toast on the planet," Joe declared emphatically. "And it's warm!" Karen added, pointing to the overhead heaters.

Their brunch was the handiwork of Blake Reetz, chef and co-owner of **Eat**. The heaters—and adjacent restaurant—were inherited from Phillis Engelbert's Lunch Room Diner & Canteen, which she folded into her nearby Detroit Street Filling Station early in the pandemic. (The Lunch Room Bakery & Café on Fuller continues.)

Eat and the Lunch Room share roots as food carts, and Reetz says that when Engelbert contacted him and co-owner Emilia Mauck about adding the Kerrytown location to their existing spot on Packard, they quickly said yes.

"We thought it was a good opportunity to reach a wider audience and be a little more visible," he says. "We're kind of off the beaten path on Packard."

While the original location has daily specials, Kerrytown has a regular menu, sorted into suppers, sandwiches, salads, sides, and sweets. But many of Reetz's simple yet sophisticated offerings can be found at both places. In October, a Packard special, chicken pumpkin mole tacos, was on the Kerrytown menu as a supper entrée.

One Packard favorite that didn't make the move is the Korean barbecue beef sandwich. "It didn't come because we're right next door to Miss Kim," Reetz says of his Kerrytown neighbor, which also



Blake Reetz and Emilia Mauck at their new Kerrytown location. Post pause, they'll have a real dining room for the first time; meanwhile, their landlord's been enjoying their tented and heated patio.

began as a food cart. "Plus, it's nice for people at the different locations to have different things."

Brunch is exclusive to Kerrytown. Besides O'Neal's French toast, other comfort dishes include biscuits and gravy, quinoa and sweet potato hash, and hot cereal. There's also "eggs in a frame"—eggs cooked into a hole cut in bread—and a "Yankee breakfast"—a slice of apple pie with cheddar cheese on top. Reetz says Midwesterners aren't used to eating pie that way, but "once they try it, they love it."

He says he loves cooking breakfast, but is a little disappointed that more guests aren't showing up for supper. "Things really die down around seven p.m.," he says. While the inside dining room is closed, the tented parking lot patio has four two-top

tables, and there are also three picnic tables in the courtyard.

Front-of-the-house manager Audrey Septak says guests can order online, call in, or place an order in person at a walk-up window facing the courtyard. Curbside delivery is available upon request. If customers place a carryout order and then decide to stay and eat, they are welcome to use an open table.

With two places to manage, "I find myself running back and forth," Reetz says. "But Packard has been around so long that the systems are in place. The staff is holding it down" while Kerrytown gets up to speed.

*Eat (Kerrytown location), 407 N. Fifth. (734) 369-6773. Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Mon. eatann Arbor.com/kerrytown*

## A West Side Bike Shop Swap

*D&D expands and Wheels in Motion gets a second spot.*

Ann Arbor's bike business has been booming since the pandemic began, and that includes two bike shops on the city's west side.

Michigan chain **D&D Bicycles** got its local start sharing space with Sun & Snow Sports in the mini-mall on Jackson in front of the GQT Quality 16. Now it's moved a mile and a half east, to the former Art Van PureSleep just west of Maple Rd. **Wheels in Motion** then took the Sun & Snow spot as its second Ann Arbor location.

Ian Connick, manager at Wheels in Motion, says they began moving into the Jackson location in September. But the ramp-up has been slow, because of a shortage of bicycles and parts from factories in Asia.

Connick said in mid-November the pandemic "shut down the factories and killed production for this year. We are just now getting bikes we ordered in May and June."

The shop is receiving forty to fifty bicycles a week, and "as soon as we get them, we build them," he says. But Connick fears customers will be disappointed if they come in the shop expecting to purchase bicycles as holiday gifts. Orders placed now won't arrive until mid-2021.

Wheels in Motion also doesn't have many accessories; he says the store will stock up on those in the spring.

D&D, whose seven other stores are mainly in the Detroit area, gets 3,000 more square feet of selling space, says Felicia VanBocxlaer, a corporate manager.

"Having our own location will allow us to support our customers not only in the summer months, but in the winter months as well," she says. "This is becoming increasingly important as we are seeing a

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## Marketplace Changes

rise in year-around commuters as well as 'fat tire bikers' when the snow falls." (Though other D&D stores also carry hockey equipment, this one does not.)

She says D&D's inventory "has improved" since summer, including its main brands—Giant, Liv Cycling, and Thule. Availability depends on the bike, and D&D is taking orders for 2021 delivery.

**Wheels in Motion**, 3780 Jackson Rd., (734) 707-0130. Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. [wheelsinmotion.us](http://wheelsinmotion.us)

**D&D Bicycles**, 2570 Jackson Ave., (734) 522-1300. Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. [ddbicyclesandhockey.com](http://ddbicyclesandhockey.com)

## Briefly noted

**Loves Furniture** acquired twenty-seven stores in the Art Van bankruptcy earlier this year and has reopened the old Art Van store on Eisenhower Pkwy.

Loves is named for Dallas investor Jeff Love, who created the company to manage the former Art Van. Based in Warren, it's hired many Art Van veterans—some of whom felt their expertise was ignored by the hedge fund that bought it in 2017 and saddled it with \$400 million in debt (Marketplace Changes, June).

Loves CEO Matt Damiani, a former Art Van VP, says the chain expects to employ 1,000 people and is spending millions to update the stores. The offerings aren't dramatically different from Art Van's, but the furniture looks a little more contemporary and the ads are classier.

Loves' arrival coincides with strong demand in local residential real estate. "At Loves, we want everyone to love where they live," he said via email.

Damiani says Loves wants shoppers to feel comfortable browsing for furniture and mattresses. "Loves has created a welcome space for stress-free shopping so customers can connect with pieces that reflect their unique style and preferences and trained home and sleep specialists that help, not hound," he writes. Unlike Art Van, where commission sales people swooped in on entering customers, Loves has a "concierge" who ascertains whether they prefer to shop on their own or with the assistance of sales staff. Customers can also make appointments to shop in person or make their purchases online—Damiani says about 80 percent are browsing online before they come into the store.

**Loves Furniture & Mattresses**, 425 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., (734) 356-3400. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. [lovesfurniture.com/locations-ann-arbor-store](http://lovesfurniture.com/locations-ann-arbor-store)

## In the Works

Ever since the pandemic began, fans of **Aventura** have periodically checked the downtown tapas bar for signs of life.

There won't be any for a while, says owner Sava Farah. She's put Aventura on "an extended siesta" until at least February.

Farah says she couldn't figure out a way to square social distancing and occupancy limits with the cozy atmosphere at Aventura, where diners sat close around the welcoming bar, enjoying small plates and paella.

"The food is sharing, and it's also an experience," Farah says. "We're going to let Aventura sit there until it makes sense to open a restaurant like that."

The good news for the veteran restaurant owner is that a piece of her newest and most ambitious venture is about to spring to life.

In December, Farah plans to open **The Boro**, an upscale café on the site of the former Lord Fox in Dixboro.

Sometime next year, Farah also plans to launch **Dixboro House**, a sit-down restaurant in a brand-new barn that passersby have watched take shape over the past two years.

The Boro, set in a restored 1880s barn, will feature a wood-burning oven producing pizzas, roast chicken, whole branzino, and a full bakery, with croissants, tarts, cakes and desserts.

The kitchens in both will be run by a high-profile husband-and-wife team from San Francisco.

Louis Maldonado was a contestant on Bravo TV's Top Chef who has worked for famed chef Thomas Keller at the French Laundry and who earned a Michelin star for his cooking at Cortez. Annemarie Maldonado worked at the famed Tartine bakery chain, known for its French pastries.

Farah says she's excited to have them in Ann Arbor. "It's not the kind of talent you come across every day," she says.

Louis Maldonado contacted her several years ago, after spotting her advertisement for an executive chef to create the Dixboro House menu, she says. They reconnected as the restaurants got closer to taking shape.

"He just fell with this project, and he loves what's going on with the Ann Arbor food scene," Farah says. Of Annemarie Maldonado, she adds, "Her stuff is out of this world." For the moment, both Maldonados are at Sava's, Farah's flagship restaurant on State St., where Louis is cooking and Annemarie is making baked goods for weekend brunch.

Farah says the combined Dixboro operation has cost several million dollars to build. "It's been really hard, I've got to be honest with you," she says of keeping everything together in the pandemic. But she does not plan to open Dixboro House until she feels the time is right. "It's taken us four years to get here," she says. "We're blessed to be in a place where we can hold off."

**The Boro**, 5400 Plymouth Rd., opening December 2020. No phone/hours yet. [savcohospitality.com/dixboro-house](http://savcohospitality.com/dixboro-house) ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email [marketplace@aaobserver.com](mailto:marketplace@aaobserver.com).



# 2020 Holiday Guide

Find peace, joy and comfort during the holiday season!



Happy Holidays from the Ann Arbor Observer! While our celebrations may look different this year, the joy from the season is still felt and seen around town. We encourage you to shop local this holiday, and support our small businesses and nonprofits in town. Together, we can keep our beloved community thriving.



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# Holiday Guide 2020

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Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops, 407 N. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor  
(734) 761-1110 • 16handsannarbor.com

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**Calder Farm:** 9334 Finzel Rd., Carleton, (734) 654-2622

**Calder Dairy & Store:** 1020 Southfield Rd., Lincoln Park, (313) 381-8858

**Calder Store:** 28190 Telegraph Rd., Flat Rock, (734) 984-6985  
calderdairy.com

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7910 Ann Arbor, Ste. 2, Dexter, (734) 234-8277 • comfortkeepers.com

## First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

All are welcome at **First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor**! FUMC's congregation is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which tears down walls and builds up the community. To stay connected and while keeping our community safe during these uncertain times, services are now available to stream on YouTube or Facebook by searching First United Methodist Church Ann Arbor. Services are streamed Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

**Downtown:** 120 S. State St., Ann Arbor, (734) 662-4536

**Green Wood:** 1001 Green Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 665-8558  
fumc-a2.org

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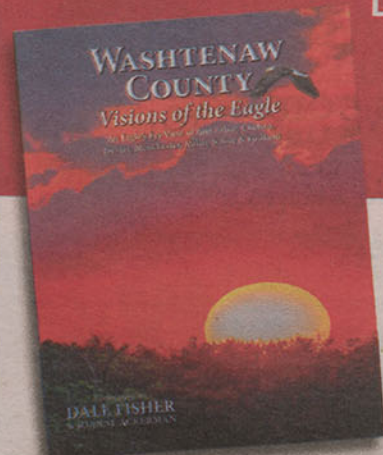


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# Holiday 2020 Guide

## Found

Holiday celebrations will be different this year. While many of your usual traditions might be on hold, if decorating and gift giving hold meaning for you, **Found** can help! You can count on them to follow COVID-19 safety protocols (find rules for safe in store shopping and current hours on website). The shop is brimming with wonderful ideas - and creative ways of helping you check things off your lists, including shopping at foundgallery.com, curbside pickup, after hours appointments, and "window shopping" @foundgallery on IG and FB. There will be expanded hours for Kerrytown Festive Fridays on Dec. 4, 11 and 18, as they join with other Downtown Districts with a special ShowTheLoveA2 collaboration.

415 N. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 302-3060 • foundgallery.com

## Fourth Ave Birkenstock

The buzzword this season at **Fourth Ave Birkenstock** is shearling. Shearling slippers, shearling clogs, and even shearling-lined sandals are selling briskly, often paired with wool socks. Owners Paul and Claire Tinkerhess encourage customers to limit virus risks by shopping online at their new website annarborbirkenstock.com, with free shipping or instant store pickup. They've also made changes to promote healthy shopping in-store. Special fitting stations are equipped with plexiglass shields so staff can assist with measuring feet and adjusting footwear. "Our goal this holiday season is to do our part in keeping our customers, ourselves, our employees, and our business healthy," says Paul, "So far, so good."

209 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 663-1644 • annarborbirkenstock.com

## Fustini's

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In addition, on Christmas Eve, December 24th from 3-6 PM, you are invited to walk through Zion's building and experience the Christmas story. An outdoor program will be held from 6:15-6:45 PM with a candlelight carol sing along.

Events are subject to change; please check the Zion website for the most current information.



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# Holiday Guide 2020

## The Guild of Artists & Artisans x Gutman Gallery

**The Guild of Artists & Artisans (The Guild)** is excited to announce its first annual Holiday Artist Market in its Fine Art Gallery and shop, **Gutman Gallery**. The market runs November 4-December 23, and highlights a wide variety of work from 50 jury-selected artists. Featuring all types of art including glass, jewelry, ceramics, printmaking, painting, leather, and more; the shop includes items at every price point with something for everyone on your holiday giving list! The Gutman Gallery will participate in downtown Ann Arbor's Midnight Madness and Kerrytown Market's Festive Fridays and will offer free gift wrapping for customers, and be joined by the Saline Fiddler's to fill the air with lovely holiday music each Friday.

**Gutman Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor, shopgutmangallery.com**

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**3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 662-5585 • HSHV.org**

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734-662-8379

See Website for Coupons [www.RonsGarageA2.com](http://www.RonsGarageA2.com)



When you **name an animal** at the Humane Society of Huron Valley, you're not only honoring a special someone, you're making a major difference in the life of a needy animal.

For more gift ideas that pay it forward, see [hshv.org/holiday](https://hshv.org/holiday)



Humane Society of  
Huron Valley

3100 Cherry Hill Rd, Ann Arbor  
P: 734.662.5585

## 2020 Holiday Guide

### Jewish Family Services

In the face of a crisis, **Jewish Family Services** rises to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Through an incredible partnership with Tony-nominated Broadway producer Thomas Laub and 13 talented artists, most of whom are graduates of the University of Michigan Musical Theatre program, comes a one night only virtual benefit for Covid relief. Event will be held Sunday, December 6, at 7 p.m., ticket price \$100. Proceeds will make a critical difference in the lives overturned by Covid-19. JFS operations are continuing and growing during this pandemic. 1,500–2,000 meals a week are provided to those in need, as well as delivery of weekly groceries to nearly 200 households. JFS is supporting socially isolated community members as well, with more than 2,000 phone reassurance calls to date.

2245 S. State St., Ste. 200, Ann Arbor

(734) 769-0209 • [jfsannarbor.org/broadway-on-a-mission](https://jfsannarbor.org/broadway-on-a-mission)

### Kerrytown Market & Shops

Located in Kerrytown's Historic Market District, and steps away from downtown, **Kerrytown Market & Shops** offers the best in one-of-a-kind shops and eateries. Find a gift for everyone on your list, while being transported to the charm of an earlier time in the locally owned shops full of handcrafted goods, jewelry, and toys. Step into the market where smoked fish, delicious sausages, and wines from around the world are waiting to be wrapped up and taken home.

407 N. 5th Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 662-5008 • [kerrytown.com](https://kerrytown.com)

### Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor, Warm the Children

Through the sponsorship of **Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor**, the **Warm the Children** program provides children with new warm clothing: coats, hats, boots, mittens and other essentials at the start of Michigan's winter season. Each year, school counselors and social workers in Washtenaw County refer children in need of warm clothing to this program. Since its founding in 1995, the program has served thousands of local children. During Covid-19, the need is greater for families and children. Your generous donation will keep the program running and provide a child with warm clothing. 100% of donations goes directly towards providing clothing. Donate online at [a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren](https://a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren) or by mail.

2723 S. State St., Ste. 110, Ann Arbor 48104

(mail in donations accepted at this location)

[a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren](https://a2kiwanis.org/warmthechildren)

### Lewis Jewelers

Give a one-of-a-kind gift this holiday at **Lewis Jewelers**. Custom design appointments or private showroom shopping is available, and can be scheduled online or by calling the store. Shop OMEGA, Hearts On Fire, Tacori, and more fine brands. Not sure what jewelry to buy? A Lewis Jewelers gift card is something that fits perfectly every time, and won't be returned. Visit [lewisjewelers.com](https://lewisjewelers.com) to shop online 24/7, and have your gift shipped to your door, or pickup curbside.

2000 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, (734) 994-5111 • [lewisjewelers.com](https://lewisjewelers.com)

### 100 Things to Do in Ann Arbor Before You Die by Patricia Majher

Keeping your social distance in Ann Arbor? Sure you've seen and done it all? Time to pick up **100 Things to Do in Ann Arbor Before You Die by Patricia Majher**. Uncover hidden gems, insider tips, world-famous culinary stops, and seasonal festivals and fairs. 100 exciting, entertaining, eclectic ideas for shaking up your stay-cation (or quarantine). A great gift for those moving into Ann Arbor, and Townies who have been here for years.

Available in local bookstores, or directly from the author,  
[patricia.majher@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.majher@gmail.com).



of Washtenaw County

THE NEED HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE.  
**THIS YEAR,  
IT HAPPENS TO  
BE GREATER.**

Help rescue Christmas for those facing poverty with a \$25 monthly gift that provides food, shelter and hope.

Aim Your Camera Here to  
Donate Directly to Your Community

[www.WashtenawSA.org](https://www.WashtenawSA.org)



Through the Sponsorship of  
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation,  
You Can Also Help...



## WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Needy Children

During this time of COVID-19, the need is even greater for families and children. Your generous donation to the Warm the Children program in Washtenaw County will keep the program running to provide a child with warm clothing and a smile.

We ask for your donation to support this vital program for children in Washtenaw County. 100% of your donation goes directly to providing clothing.

### WAYS TO DONATE:

ONLINE: [www.a2kiwanis.org/WarmTheChildren](http://www.a2kiwanis.org/WarmTheChildren)

MAIL: Warm The Children c/o Old National Bank  
2723 S. State Street, Suite 110  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



For more information email [mkcstewart61@gmail.com](mailto:mkcstewart61@gmail.com)

### BE A SHOPPER...

See the eyes of the children light up!

### BE A DONOR...

Every dollar donated goes directly to the purchase of warm winter clothing for children of need.



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ANN ARBOR FOUNDATION, INC.

## GIVING IT ALL AWAY

The Story of William W. Cook and His  
Michigan Law Quadrangle

BY MARGARET A. LEARY

Ann Arbor, 2011, 304 pages, \$25

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Generations of Michigan Law grads have passed on myths about their generous but eccentric benefactor . . . Now Margaret Leary has given us the real story, and it reads like a gripping whodunit.

*Theodore J. St. Antoine, James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus of Law and Past Dean, University of Michigan Law School*

Great gift for Law Quad and local history fans, and Cookies

Now available at Nicola's Bookstore, Westgate Shopping Center and Amazon.com \$25

**A Holiday Offer  
Exclusively for You!**



**LEWIS JEWELERS**  
SINCE 1921 "YOUR DIAMOND STORE"

2000 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor | 734.994.5111 | [www.LewisJewelers.com](http://www.LewisJewelers.com)

\*This offer is redeemable for new jewelry purchases only. One offer per customer, per item. Not valid on special offers, loose diamonds, or layaways. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires December 31, 2020.



## Holiday Gift Giving

3 Month membership - \$325\*

6 Month membership - \$600\*

10 Class package - \$125\* (Online only)

10 Class package - \$175\* (In studio or online)

\*Offer expires 12/31/2020

- Guided professional fitness classes
- Private workout space with reservations
- A variety of Yoga practices, from soothing to challenging
- Mat pilates, Tai Chi, cycling and more

3100 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor • 734.622.8119

[imagine@imaginefitnessandyoga.com](mailto:imagine@imaginefitnessandyoga.com)



# FRESH GREENS & CHRISTMAS TREES

BY THE PRODUCE STATION

MORE INFO AT

[WWW.PRODUCESTATION.COM](http://WWW.PRODUCESTATION.COM)



1629 S. STATE, ANN ARBOR

734.663.7848

## CREAMY EGGNOG. HOLIDAY SWEETS. THE PERFECT HOLIDAY TREAT.

### We've Got What You Need!

From fresh whipping cream and butter to our world famous eggnog and ice cream, you can find it all at our stores in Lincoln Park and Flat Rock, our farm store in Carleton, or at many fine food purveyors across Michigan.

From our family to yours....

*Happy Holidays!*



Delivered Right To Your Door!

Call us at 313-381-8858, and you'll have our farm fresh dairy products delivered to you!

### Visit our Stores!

**Lincoln Park:** 1020 Southfield Road • 313-381-8858  
Open daily 8am to 9pm

**Flat Rock:** 28190 Telegraph Road • 734-984-6985  
Open daily 10am to 7:30pm

### Visit our Farm year round

9334 Finzel Road, Carleton, MI  
734-654-2622 • Open daily 10am to 7:30pm

## UNIQUE HOLIDAY KEEPSAKE GIFTS



DESIGN YOUR OWN CUSTOM GIFT WRAP

Photo Enlargements • Custom Framing •  
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Wood, Acrylic Prints • Photo Restoration •  
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**WALLPOSH.COM**

4557 WASHTENAW AVE ANN ARBOR MI 48108 • 734.665.3686 • [INFO@WALLPOSH.COM](mailto:INFO@WALLPOSH.COM)

# Holiday Guide <sup>2020</sup>

## Michigan Theater

The health and safety of the **Michigan and State Theater's** customers, staff, and the community continue to be their top priority. The Theaters look forward to the time when we can once again join together each day at the Michigan and State for new and classic movies in downtown Ann Arbor. Until then, don't forget to browse the Virtual Movie Palace for movies and events that you can stream from your home, and bring the joy of Michigan Theater popcorn home on a curbside concession night. Stay safe, stay well, and see you soon back at the theaters! Stay in the loop at [michtheater.org](http://michtheater.org).

603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, [michtheater.org](http://michtheater.org)

## Paragon Design + Display

**Paragon Design + Display** offers you one stop shopping with an entirely custom approach to making your vision come to life. Since the firm's founding in 1982, Paragon Design + Display has grown into a full-service environmental graphics and printing studio. With experienced professionals in graphic and interior design, fabrication, planning, and installation, they challenge themselves to embrace the most innovative solutions for their clients. This approach has enabled them to provide a more thoughtful and collaborative design process; merging all aspects of the project.

4557 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 665-3686 • [paragondisplay.com](http://paragondisplay.com)

## The Produce Station

**The Produce Station** now offers "no-touch" curbside service and local grocery delivery—orders can be placed by phone, email or via website. Fresh food is brought in daily, including produce, meat, bread, cheese and dairy. Order anything you would normally purchase in store, including beer and wine. Local grocery delivery is available, including prepared foods for same day delivery Monday–Sunday. Now available: curbside beer service! Check their website for the beer in stock, call and ask for curbside beer service. Stock up on holiday wines today—wine selection by Hugo Ristow.

1629 S. State St., Ann Arbor, (734) 663-7848 • [producestation.com](http://producestation.com)

## Red Shoes

Shop original artwork, jewelry, home goods, vintage, and more at **Red Shoes**. Ready for you this holiday season, Red Shoes is full of unique and beautiful gifts crafted by local artists, small design studios, and handmade goods from around the globe. Owner Catherine handpicks every item in the shop, from retail products to vintage goods, that she would be proud to have in her own home and has chosen from the heart.

2386 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, (734) 358-0150  
[redshoeshomegoods.com](http://redshoeshomegoods.com)

## Ron's Garage

**Ron's Garage** has been servicing vehicles and serving the community since 1982! Family owned Ron's Garage is working to ensure under-resourced families are driving safe vehicles, providing gift certificates of free services to local grassroots organizations in town. Ron's works with the Community Action Network, and has provided support to local schools. As a response to Covid-19, contact-free processes have been put in place. Staff will sanitize your vehicle upon arrival with a complete wipe down to all common touch points. Car pickup and delivery is also available to your home or business.

1130 Rosewood St., Ann Arbor, (734) 662-8379 • [ronsgaragea2.com](http://ronsgaragea2.com)



## HOLIDAY ARTIST MARKET

NOVEMBER 4TH - DECEMBER 23RD

*Shop local & Support artists at the Gutman Gallery*



THE  
GUILD  
OF ARTISTS & ARTISANS

GUTMAN  
GALLERY

FINE ART GALLERY & SHOP  
118 N. 4TH AVE. | DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR

*find an artist made gift for everyone on your holiday list*



DECEMBER SHOP HOURS

• T-TH 11AM-5PM, FRI 11AM-9PM, SAT 11AM-7PM •

[SHOPGUTMANGALLERY.COM](http://SHOPGUTMANGALLERY.COM)

+ MENTION THIS AD FOR FREE GIFT WRAP +

# BROADWAY ON A MISSION

A VIRTUAL BENEFIT FOR JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES COVID RELIEF

ONE NIGHT ONLY | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 6, 2020 | 7:00PM EST

In the face of a crisis, JFS rises to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Through a partnership with Broadway producer Thomas Laub and 13 artists, we've created a virtual fundraiser to make sure no one has to weather this storm alone.

Tickets \$100  
[jfsannarbor/broadway](http://jfsannarbor/broadway)  
(734) 237-6403



ASHLEY PARK  
MEAN GIRLS  
THE KING AND I



RYAN VASQUEZ  
HAMILTON



BOBBY CONTE  
COMPANY  
A BRONX TALE



MCKENZIE KURTZ  
FROZEN



ALYAH SCOTT  
BOOK OF MORMON



BEN AHLERS  
NORRIS THE VILLAGE



LEANNE ANTONIO  
THE LION KING



JUSTIN SHOWELL  
HAMILTON



ABBY CORRIGAN  
FUN HOME



WILL BRANNER  
MEAN GIRLS



LORNA COURTNEY  
DERE EVAN HANSEN  
WEST SIDE STORY



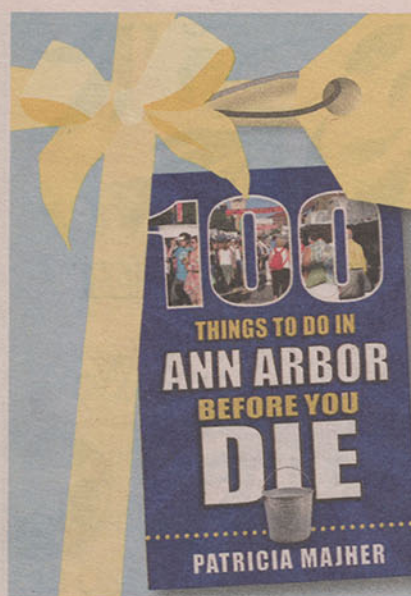
THOMAS LAUB  
AMERICAN UTOPIA  
SLAVE PLAY



GEOFF PACKARD  
MEAN GIRLS



CHELSEA PACKARD  
WICKED



*Gift Giving*  
**SOLVED!**

**100 THINGS TO DO IN ANN ARBOR BEFORE YOU DIE**  
PATRICIA MAJHER

100 exciting, entertaining, eclectic ideas for stay-cations or vacations—\$17<sup>00</sup>

Available at area bookstores or through the author at [patricia.majher@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.majher@gmail.com).

**This holiday season may be hard for some of us...  
You are not alone. Join us for faith, hope and love!**

At First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor, we welcome everyone. Our congregation is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which tears down walls and builds up community. We are progressive and committed to seeking peace and building hope through worship, service and social justice.

**Join us online!**

Services are streamed on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Children's Service will be at 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelit Service will be at 7 p.m.

To view our services, go to YouTube or Facebook and search First United Methodist Church Ann Arbor.

**First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor**  
[www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org)

Downtown: 120 S. State St. at Huron • Green Wood: 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way



# Holiday Guide 2020

## Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor

All are invited to **Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor's** annual Winter Festival—a Virtual Wonderland! This child-centered event is FREE and will feature crafts, stories, and a magic show. Fun activities will keep the kids entertained during the big game and adults will want to try their luck in the raffle drawing! This Zoom event is intended for children in K- Grade 5 but all are welcome. December 12, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Details, raffle tickets, and information about Steiner School's in-person classes at [SteinerSchool.org](http://SteinerSchool.org)

2775 Newport Rd., Ann Arbor, [steinerschool.org](http://steinerschool.org)

## The Salvation Army

Because of Covid-19, the need is greater this year. This holiday season, **The Salvation Army** expects to see a greater need for their services—more than any in recent history. Unemployment rates are expected to be 10%–11%, and based on the increased service already provided this year due to Covid-19, they need resources to serve up to 155% more people with Christmas assistance. Donations to your local Salvation Army will go towards helping ANYONE in need throughout Washtenaw County. The Salvation Army of Washtenaw County is determined to rescue Christmas for those suffering due to the impact and economic hardships caused by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A \$20 donation provides a basic needs kit to someone in our community in need, \$25 donation provides a warm coat to a child during the harsh Michigan winter, and a \$100 donation provides a week of meals for a family of 4.

1621 S. State St., Ann Arbor, (734) 332-3948

3660 Packard St., Ann Arbor, (734) 761-7750

## TeaHaus

Find everything you need for the holidays at **TeaHaus**! Shop their collection of over 175 loose teas, curated by Lisa, owner and tea sommelier. From the classics to the rare, TeaHaus teas are among the world's finest. They also carry a full line of herbals, rooibos, and fruit tea, along with tea sampler gift bags, teapots, and all the tea accessories you need. For the home chef, try their award-winning tea-based spice blends. Or, take home some incredible French macarons, caramels, and other pastries—all made by hand, in-Haus. You can also place a custom order (email: [Megan@teahaus.com](mailto:Megan@teahaus.com)). Visit their store or shop online at [teahaus.com](http://teahaus.com).

204-206 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 622-0460 • [teahaus.com](http://teahaus.com)

## West Side Book Shop

Explore rare and used books at **West Side Book Shop** this holiday season and find something for the readers and book collectors in your life. Browse the cozy downtown shop, where proprietor Jay Platt thoughtfully buys and sells books held to the Antiquarian Bookseller's Association of America's standards. Gift certificates are available.

113 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 995-1891 • [westsidebookshopa2.com](http://westsidebookshopa2.com)

## Zion Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services will be livestreamed and can be accessed through the **Zion** website under the Worship tab on the homepage. In addition, on Christmas Eve, December 24th from 3–6 p.m., you are invited to walk through Zion's building and experience the Christmas story. An outdoor program will be held from 6:15–6:45 p.m. with a candlelight carol singalong. Events are subject to change; please check the Zion website for the most current information.

1501 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, (734) 994-4455 • [zlc-aa.org](http://zlc-aa.org)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

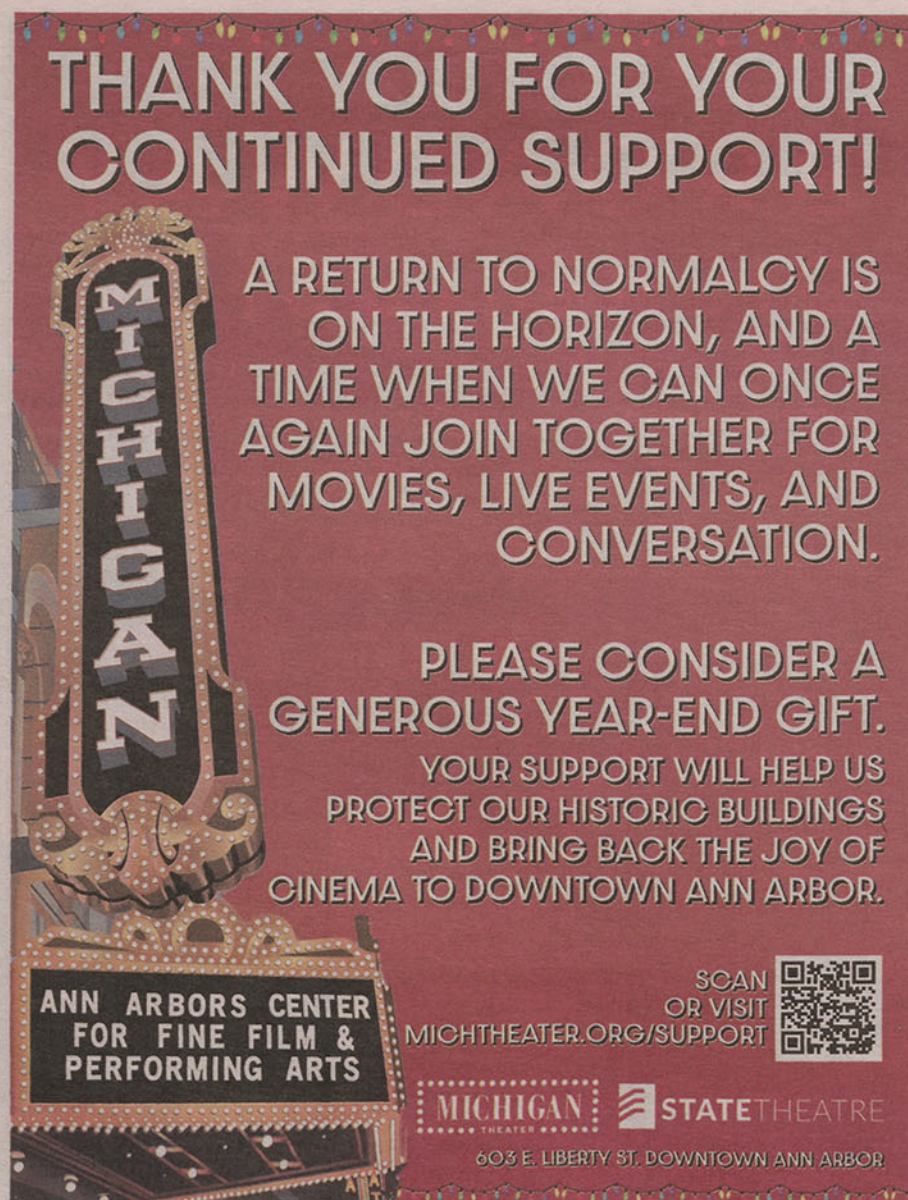
**A RETURN TO NORMALCY IS ON THE HORIZON, AND A TIME WHEN WE CAN ONCE AGAIN JOIN TOGETHER FOR MOVIES, LIVE EVENTS, AND CONVERSATION.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER A GENEROUS YEAR-END GIFT.**  
YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US PROTECT OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND BRING BACK THE JOY OF CINEMA TO DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR.

**ANN ARBORS CENTER FOR FINE FILM & PERFORMING ARTS**

SCAN OR VISIT  
[MICHTHEATER.ORG/SUPPORT](http://MICHTHEATER.ORG/SUPPORT)

**MICHIGAN STATE THEATRE**  
603 E. LIBERTY ST. DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR



# December Events

## SENIORS

**49** Events for older adults  
Ella Bourland

## FILMS

**53** Viewings this month  
Ella Bourland

## EVENTS REVIEW

**50** The Huron Valley Harmonizers  
They're some of the coolest cats around.  
Jeff Prenevost

## GALLERIES

**52** Exhibits this month  
Ella Bourland

## KIDS CALENDAR

**54** Events for kids 12 and under  
Ella Bourland

## TIPS FOR READING

This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**, all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's operational status. Published events reflect plans as of press day (18 November), while the most up-to-date calendar is available at [AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com).

Our online calendar is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

### ★ Denotes a free event

All phone numbers have area code (734), unless otherwise noted.

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they

occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

### We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month**.

• Email: [events@aaobserver.com](mailto:events@aaobserver.com)

• Phone: 769-3175

### What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers.

Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at [AnnArborObserver.com](http://AnnArborObserver.com). Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar.

★ **Community Meeting: U-M Cardiac Arrest Learning Community.** Two brief talks on near-death experiences related to cardiac arrest, followed by group discussions. With Michigan Medicine surgery resident Gardner Yost, who saved a driver's life on his commute home, and Patient is Partner founder Greg Merritt, who survived a sudden heart attack. 2-4 p.m., for online URL preregister at [ohca.med.umich.edu/home](http://ohca.med.umich.edu/home). Free. [earodrig@umich.edu](mailto:earodrig@umich.edu).

★ **"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap tips. 6-8 p.m., for in-person location or online URL preregister at [MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-StitchNBitch](http://MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-StitchNBitch). \$2 monthly dues. 945-3035.

★ **Death Cafe: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Interfaith Center Minister Annie Kopko leads a frank conversation about death. 6:30-8 p.m., for online location see [InterfaithSpirit.org](http://InterfaithSpirit.org). Free, donations appreciated. 327-0270.

★ **"Stranger Still: Translating Contemporary Poetry from Israel and Palestine":** U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Reading by Vietnamese Israeli poet Vaan Nguyen, a "veritable juggler of Hebrew," who's known for mixing world classics and pop culture, the personal and the political, past and present. Followed by a discussion with Oxford University modern Hebrew literature professor Adriana X. Jacobs, the English translator for Nguyen's 2013 collection *The Truffle Eye*. 7 p.m., for online URL preregister at [bit.ly/vaannguyen](http://bit.ly/vaannguyen). Free. 615-8503.

★ **"The Best of Brevity: Twenty Groundbreaking Years of Flash Nonfiction":** Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati. Reading and discussion with the editors and contributors of the first anthology of *Brevity*, a long-running and popular online literary publication that features nonfiction forms such as memoir, narrative, lyric, and more. 7 p.m., online at [LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-best-brevity](http://LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-best-brevity). Free, donations accepted. 585-5567.

★ **Voices in Harmony.** Dec. 1, 8, & 15. All female singers invited to join the weekly online rehearsals of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., for online URL email [Info@VoicesInHarmonyChorus.org](mailto:Info@VoicesInHarmonyChorus.org). Free

to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those who join). 765-3611.

★ **Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their digital images and digitized prints on this month's assignment, "Reflections." 7:30 p.m., for online URL email [a2camClub@gmail.com](mailto:a2camClub@gmail.com) or call. Free. 327-4781, [AnnArborCameraClub.org](http://AnnArborCameraClub.org).

★ **Monthly Meeting: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Branch members discuss their current research, including Dwight Ebaugh on his experience with Rudolf Steiner's classic book *The Philosophy of Freedom* and Claudia Fontana on Chicago physician Ross Rentea's eurythmy gestures to strengthen against Covid-19. Followed by open discussion. 7:30-9 p.m., for online URL email [dwight.ebaugh@gmail.com](mailto:dwight.ebaugh@gmail.com). Free. (517) 927-3696.

## seniors

**U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program,** 998-9353. Free virtual activities. For online URL, email [info.tswp@umich.edu](mailto:info.tswp@umich.edu) or call. **Tai Chi.** Beginners welcome. Mon., Wed., & Fri., noon-12:30 p.m. **"Walking Off the Pounds."** Guided steps to walk in place. Mon., Wed., & Fri., 12:30-1 p.m. **Lunch for Older Adults.** In-person; capacity limited so preregister 2 days in advance. Every Tues., noon. \$3 for age 60 & over (age 59 & under, \$5.50). **"Una Tertulia."** Socializing group for Spanish speakers. Dec. 2 & 16, 3-4 p.m. **"Writing, Reflections, and Conversations."** Dec. 7, 1-3 p.m. **Monthly Craft Group.** Bring a project to work on and socialize. Dec. 17, 3-4:30 p.m.

## 1 TUESDAY

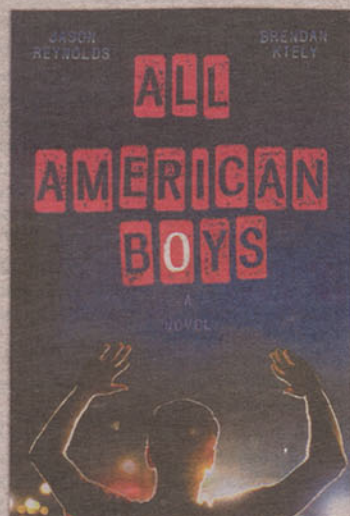
★ **"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers Fundraiser.** Dec. 1-5. Live radio broadcasts by 107.1-FM DJs, featuring interviews with Food Gatherers staffers, partners, and other community leaders TBA, and more. Cash and nonperishable food donations requested. 6 a.m.-7 p.m., broadcast on 107.1-FM WQKL & online at [FoodGatherers.org/Rockin](http://FoodGatherers.org/Rockin) and [AnnArbors107one.com](http://AnnArbors107one.com). Free. [Info@FoodGatherers.org](mailto:Info@FoodGatherers.org), 761-2796.

★ **Holiday Artist Market: The Guild of Artists & Artisans.** Nov. 4-Dec. 23, every Tues.-Sat. Indoor holiday sale of works in various media and styles by over 50 juried area artists. Items include jewelry, functional and decorative ceramics, small and large paintings, prints, fiber art, wood carvings, and more. Also, artist trunk shows every Fri. & Sat. Capacity limited, masks required. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Tues.-Thurs.), 11 a.m.-9 p.m. (Fri.), & 11

a.m.-7 p.m. (Sat.); or by appointment. Gutman Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave. Free admission. 662-3382, [Elizabeth@TheGuild.org](mailto:Elizabeth@TheGuild.org).

★ **"Gaslighting in the Academy: Will Black Lives Continue to Matter?":** U-M Engineering. Georgia Tech biomedical engineering professor Manu Platt, the Center on Emergent Behaviors of Integrated Cellular Systems diversity director, discusses the minute yet complex daily activities that sustain racial inequalities in academia. 1-2 p.m., for online URL preregister at [bit.ly/intheacademy](http://bit.ly/intheacademy). Free. [EngineeringEvents@umich.edu](mailto:EngineeringEvents@umich.edu).

**Olive Oil Tasting: Fustini's Oils & Vinegars.** Dec. 1, 8, & 15. Fustini's staffers sample and discuss various olive oils. 5:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at [fustinis.com/events?location=annarbor](http://fustinis.com/events?location=annarbor) or call. \$60, includes samples available for curbside pickup or delivery. 213-1110.



THE 2021 WASHTENAW read

**All American Boys**  
Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

NOW AVAILABLE  
AT PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES  
AND AREA BOOKSTORES

WREAD.ORG

★ Denotes a free event

## 2 WEDNESDAY

★ **33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival:** Jewish Community Center. Nov. 30 and Dec. 2-5, 7, 9, 10, 12-17, 21, & 22. Talks by various Jewish writers. Today: *Vanity Fair* contributing editor Howard Blum discusses his new book, *Night of the Assassins: The Untold Story of Hitler's Plot to Kill FDR, Churchill, and Stalin* (11 a.m.). Various times, for individual online URLs preregister at [book.jccannarbor.org](http://book.jccannarbor.org). Free admission (sponsorship opportunities available, \$180-\$10,000). 971-0990.

★ **"Curating Covid: Material and Visual Cultures of the Pandemic":** U-M Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Noon Lecture. A series of brief talks on how Covid-19 will live on in our personal memories and collective histories. With Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow) typological professor Alexandra Arkhipova, a leading expert on political jokes, rumors, and legends on the concept of money in society and on the folklore of protest, along with U-M English professor Sara Blair, and French National Center for Scientific Research (Paris) social sciences professor Sarah Gensburger. Noon-1:20 p.m., for online URL preregister at [bit.ly/curatingcovid](http://bit.ly/curatingcovid). Free. [crees@umich.edu](mailto:crees@umich.edu).

★ **"What Is Next for the U.S. Foreign Policy?":** U-M Weiser Diplomacy Center. Panel discussion with 4 current and former U.S. diplomats—Dawn Liberi, Hugo Llorens, Sandy Vershbow, and Ronald Neumann, who moderates. 4-5 p.m., for online URL preregister at [bit.ly/whatsnext2021](http://bit.ly/whatsnext2021). Free. [fssp-diplomacy@umich.edu](mailto:fssp-diplomacy@umich.edu).

★ **Film Discussion:** Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to discuss *King in the Wilderness*, Peter Kunhardt's 2018 haunting documentary about the last 18 months of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life. *Variety* writer Owen Gleiberman says it portrays King "not [as] a walking monument but a human being with fear, humor, guts, and (amazing) grace under pressure." 6-7 p.m., for online URL see [aadl.org/node/574375](http://aadl.org/node/574375) the day of the event. Free. 327-4200.

★ **"Felted Soaps":** The Guild of Artists & Artisans. Grand Rapids-based fiber artist Sierra Cole demonstrates how to make a thin wool exfoliating pocket to keep your bar soap in. 6 p.m., for online URL preregister at [TheGuild.org/Gutman\\_Gallery/Events-Workshops](http://TheGuild.org/Gutman_Gallery/Events-Workshops). \$15, includes a recorded version of the demo. [Elizabeth@TheGuild.org](mailto:Elizabeth@TheGuild.org).

★ **Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, for online URL join [Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters). Free. 926-8863.

★ **Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** Every Wed., except Dec. 30. See review, right. All male singers invited to join the weekly online rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7-8 p.m., for online URL email [info@HVharmonizers.org](mailto:info@HVharmonizers.org) or call. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). 796-7467.

★ **"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Reading by Kalamazoo fiction writer Bonnie Jo Campbell, a Pushcart Prize winner and former Guggenheim fellow. Her most recent short story collection, *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters*, features ferocious mothers and scrappy daughters, working-class protagonists who are at once vulnerable, wise, cruel, and funny. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mic. 7-8:45 p.m., for online URL email [cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com](mailto:cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com). Free.

★ **"Togetherness in a Sudden Strangeness":** Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati. Reading and discussion with contributors to this new collection of poetry edited by former American Poetry Society editor Alice Quinn. From fierce and resilient to wistful, darkly humorous, and reverent about the vulnerability of humans, the poems in this collection reflect on life during a pandemic. 7 p.m., online at [Literatibookstore.com/event/home-literati-together-sudden-strangeness](http://Literatibookstore.com/event/home-literati-together-sudden-strangeness). Free, donations accepted. 585-5567.

★ **Suzie Vinnick and Michael McNevin: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase.** Double bill. Vinnick is a Canadian roots and blues singer-songwriter with a "voice of spun gold and honey," according to *Access Magazine*. California folk singer-songwriter McNevin is known for illustrating his insightful and intensely personal

lyrics on an Etch-a-Sketch during performances. 7 p.m., online at [OnTheTracksChelsea.com](http://OnTheTracksChelsea.com). Free, donations appreciated. 330-5226.

★ **Poetry Salon: One Pause Poetry.** All invited to discuss poetry. Bring something you wrote or something you love; musical instruments & visual art welcome. Followed by collaborative writing games and exercises. 8-10 p.m., for online URL email [wandersong@gmail.com](mailto:wandersong@gmail.com). Free. [OnePausePoetry.org](http://OnePausePoetry.org).

★ **"Near-Term to Net-Zero: A New Approach to Setting Carbon Prices":** Ann Arbor/U-M Citizens' Climate Lobby. Talk by Smith College environmental science and policy professor Alexander Barron. 8 p.m., for online URL preregister at [bit.ly/settingcarbonprices](http://bit.ly/settingcarbonprices). Free. 657-3150.

★ **"A Beautiful Country":** U-M Theatre Department. Dec. 2-9. Matthew Ozawa directs U-M students in Chay Yew's provocative 1998 drama that chronicles 150 years of Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese American immigration. Narration by a transgender drag queen called Miss Visa Denied is interspersed with testimonials and dramatizations of pieces of propaganda. Prerecorded over a two-week span in the Arthur Miller Theatre. Available from 8 p.m. Dec. 2 through Dec. 9, online at [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) (search "umich smid"). Free.

## 3 THURSDAY

★ **"Black Maternal and Infant Mortality: What's History Got to Do With It?":** U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Thursday Morning Lecture Series. Talk by Henry Ford Health System community health & equity senior VP Kimberlydawn Wisdom. Last talk in a series of 6 weekly lectures. 10-11:30 a.m., for online URL preregister at [OLLI-umich.org](http://OLLI-umich.org). \$35 per lecture (for 6-lecture series, \$60); for members, \$10 per lecture and \$35 for 10-lecture series. \$25 annual membership fee. 998-9351.

★ **33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival:** Jewish Community Center. See 2 Wednesday. Today: *Ad Age* editor Dan Peres and Jason Rosenthal discuss their new memoirs. Peres's *As Needed for Pain* (1:30 p.m.) is about his past addiction to Vicodin and other opioids. Rosenthal's *My Wife Said You May Want to Marry Me* (4 p.m.) is about life after loss. Days before Rosenthal's wife died of ovarian cancer, she wrote the viral *New York Times* essay "You May Want to Marry My Husband." Various times.

★ **"German Angst":** U-M Institute for Historical Studies. History professors Frank Biess (U-C San Diego) and Geoff Eley (U-M) discuss Biess's new book and the ambivalent role of fear and anxiety in a democratizing society. 4-5 p.m., for online URL preregister at [bit.ly/germanangst2020](http://bit.ly/germanangst2020). Free. [EisenbergInstitute@umich.edu](mailto:EisenbergInstitute@umich.edu).

★ **Lauren Groff:** U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. Reading by this Florida-based novelist and short story writer known for her poetic style and engrossing tales. Her latest story collection, *Florida*, pinpoints, with shocking effect, the connections behind pleasure and pain, hope and despair, love and fury. Followed by a Q&A. Groff also gives an online talk tomorrow (see listing). 5 p.m., online at [tinyurl.com/ZellWriters](http://tinyurl.com/ZellWriters). Free. 764-6330.

★ **San and Emily Slomovits.** Every Thurs. & Mon. Multi-instrumentalist San (best known as half of the popular family-friendly duo Gemini and Observer contributor) and his vocalist-violinist daughter Emily perform livestream folk music geared towards kids (Mon.) and adults (Thurs.). 5 p.m., online at [Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic](http://Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic) (Mon) and [Facebook.com/EmilySlomovits](http://Facebook.com/EmilySlomovits) (Thurs.). Free, donations for Food Gatherer or a social or racial justice-oriented organization accepted. [sandor2021@gmail.com](mailto:sandor2021@gmail.com).

★ **"Louis Lessons":** Kerrytown Concert House. Lecture-concert by popular local pianist Louis Nagel, a retired U-M music professor. Livestream from KCH. 5:30 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com](http://KerrytownConcertHouse.com). Free, donations accepted. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

★ **"Steep Best of 2020: An Exploration of Tea":** Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's tea experts sample and discuss the history, terroir, harvesting, and other aspects of several fine teas. Q&A. 5:30-7 p.m., for online URL preregister at [ZingermansDeli.com/event/virtual-steep-best-of-2020](http://ZingermansDeli.com/event/virtual-steep-best-of-2020). \$35, includes 1 sample kit available for curbside pickup (for 2, \$55); local delivery, additional \$6. 663-3400.

★ **Eliza Nellums:** Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati. This Washington D.C.-based writer discusses her new mystery *All That's Bright and Gone* with Jesse Vilinsky, the narrator

# close harmony

## The Huron Valley Harmonizers

*An a cappella group that makes it cool to be happy these days.*

Do you live in the greater Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area? Do you ever sing in the shower? Do you like making new friends? Do you like being happy?

Yes-yes-yes-yes? Sit in on a rehearsal with the Huron Valley Harmonizers.

I participated in a Harmonizers' rehearsal recently and chatted with their director, Rob Pettigrew, and was struck by two things: one, they've figured out how to keep it going in a pandemic, and two, they're a great bunch of guys—full-on Midwestern nice. Does singing together appeal to nice people, or does singing soothe and nurture? Does it matter?

The Harmonizers are part of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the largest men's singing organization in the world. Pre-pandemic, about twenty-five guys would show up for rehearsals; mid-pandemic, from ten to fifteen are getting on Zoom; post-pandemic, they'll resume rehearsals at the Stony Creek United Methodist Church in Ypsi. They're eager for more members. Call it the missionary impulse—when a person finds beauty or happiness or joy, they want to share and lobby for it. Like walking in nature, dancing, gardening, or bonfires, singing together are things that just work for some people.

Yes, this is currently a men's singing group. Women are welcome (and might have a blast), but so far it's all guys. There's a separate all-women group, the Voices in Harmony Chorus. And while it's called a barbershop group for historical reasons, the connotation no longer applies—no striped jackets, spats, boaters, not much Stephen Foster. No Bach, either, but they do the rest: jazz, standards, doo-wop, pop, Celtic, you name it. A particularly appealing aspect is that they serve as a recruiting ground for the formation of quartets (or trios or quintets)



TABI WALTERS

for people with a particular jones, such as a beloved Manhattan Transfer number, a Frankie Valli tune, or Phil the Fluter's Ball.

You don't need to be a singer. Most of the members never sang in groups before and started with no training. They make it easy to learn one's part. To practice a song in four parts during Zoom rehearsals, four different recordings are made with a single part isolated on one stereo channel. Everybody sings together but muted (except for the director playing accompaniment), but everyone records themselves and sends their recordings to the director for coaching as needed.

The Harmonizers will resume performing at fairs, parties, summer evenings on Main St., or at retirement homes. They also like to get together with other singing groups, participate in festivals, and compete in the annual statewide tournament. For 2003 and 2018, they won the Pioneer District Barbershop Harmony Society's championship. The Harmonizers and other local groups have declared Ann Arbor "A Cappella City USA." Who knew?

The Huron Valley Harmonizers rehearse via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m. To sit in on the next rehearsal, email [info@hvharmonizers.org](mailto:info@hvharmonizers.org) or call (734)796-7467. For all other info, see [hvharmonizers.org](http://hvharmonizers.org). If you sign up for the long term and become a contributing member, modest dues help defray costs.

—Jeff Prenevoist

of its audiobook edition. It's about a 6-year-old in Metro Detroit who searches for her missing big brother with her imaginary friend. 7 p.m., online at [LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-eliza-nellums](http://LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-eliza-nellums). Free, donations accepted. 585-5567.

★ **"History of Color Printing: Making Color in a Way That Is Not like a Long Drive through a Corn Field":** U-M Library Book Arts Studio. Talk by Appalachian State University (NC) art department chair Clifton Meador. 7-8 p.m., online at [bit.ly/colorprintinghistory](http://bit.ly/colorprintinghistory). Free. [clausch@umich.edu](mailto:clausch@umich.edu).

★ **Virtual Comhaltas.** Every Thurs., except Dec. 24 & 31. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. 7 p.m., for online URL email [Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org](mailto:Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org). Free. [Facebook.com/DetroitIrishMusic](http://Facebook.com/DetroitIrishMusic).

★ **Virtual Trivia: Vault of Midnight.** Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Vault of Midnight events head Caleb Wimbrow throws out questions in a livestream video for participants to answer in the comments section. Prizes. 7 p.m., online at [Instagram.com/VaultOfMidnight](http://Instagram.com/VaultOfMidnight). Free. 998-1413.

★ **Molly Tuttle: The Ark Livestream Series.** Dec. 3 & 17. Widely heralded young bluegrass singer-songwriter who, according to *American Songwriter* critic Paul Zollo, "sings with the gentle authority of Gillian Welch, yet plays astoundingly fleet flat-picking guitar like Chet Atkins on superdrive." A hit at the 2020 Ann Arbor Folk Festival, she's the 1st woman to win the IBMA Guitar Player of the Year award. Her new music incorporates electric

instruments and moves in the direction of songwriter Americana. 8 p.m., for online URL and tickets (\$15-\$45), see [BoxOffice.mandolin.com/pages/molly-tuttle-but-i-d-rather-stream-with-you](http://BoxOffice.mandolin.com/pages/molly-tuttle-but-i-d-rather-stream-with-you). 761-1451.

★ **Mountain Man: The Ark Livestream Series.** Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Vermont-based all-female acoustic pop-folk trio known for its resonant, often thrilling vocal harmonies. 9 p.m., for URL and tickets (\$12), see [noonchorus.com/the-ark-mountain-man/](http://noonchorus.com/the-ark-mountain-man/). 761-1451.

## 4 FRIDAY

★ **"Midnight Madness":** Main Street Area Association. Every Fri., except Dec. 25. Many merchants have extended hours with special sales. Also, *Santa's Mailbox* is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA), Nov. 29-Dec. 14, in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main); include a return address to receive a response from Santa. Masks required in shops. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. or so (many stores stay open till midnight), Main St. shopping areas. Free admission. 668-7112.

★ **"Festive Fridays":** Kerrytown District Association. Every Fri., except Dec. 25. Kerrytown businesses stay open late with holiday bargains. 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Kerrytown Market & Shops, 405 N. Fifth Ave. Free admission. [KerrytownDistrict.org/all-events/festive-fridays-in-kerrytown-shop-local](http://KerrytownDistrict.org/all-events/festive-fridays-in-kerrytown-shop-local), [KerrytownDistrict@gmail.com](mailto:KerrytownDistrict@gmail.com).

★ **"What Kind of Ecological Culture Do We Need?":** Drought History and Lessons from Premodern Southeast Asia: U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies Lecture Series. Talk by U-M Southeast Asian Studies lecturer Hieu Phung. Noon-1 p.m., online

at myumi.ch/O4kBO. Free. cseas@umich.edu, 764-0352.

★**"Finely Crafted Wares": The Valley Barn and Friends.** Dec. 4-6. Show and sale of works by local artists, including Douglas Madaras (architectural sculpture), Jo Johnston and Marie Krull (textile), Maxwell Davis and James Griffin (furniture and sculpture), Tom Phardel (ceramic), and Martin Soave and Scott Taylor (mixed media). Masks required. 2-8 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Sat.), and noon-5 p.m. (Sun.), The Valley, 7650 Scio Church Rd. Free admission. 761-9267, ArtSaleAtTheValley.com.

★**"Winter Art Market": York Food & Drink.** Dec. 4-6. Outdoor display & sale of works by local artists TBA. Drinks and food available. Masks required; capacity limited. 2 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.); ending time TBA. Free admission. 662-0798.

★**33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jonathan Kaufman discusses his latest book, *The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China*. 2:30 p.m.

★**"Raptor Feeding": Leslie Science & Nature Center.** Dec. 4 & 18. LSNC staffers feed, do tricks with, and answer questions about the center's red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon, and other resident raptors. Masks required for age 4 & up. 3 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. Free, donations accepted. Capacity limited; preregistration required. LeslieSNC.org, 997-1553.

★**"Writing on a Tightrope at Night in a High Wind: Inspiration Versus Craft": U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series Craft Lecture.** Writer Lauren Groff, who is at the U-M to give a reading (see 3 Thursday), discusses the influences and inspiration behind her works. 5 p.m., online at tinyurl.com/ZellWriters. Free. 764-6330.

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited to a brief Shabbat observance with secular readings, candle lighting, wine rituals, challah, and Yahrzeit observance to remember loved ones. 6:30-7:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at JewishCulturalSociety.org. Free, donations accepted. 975-9872.

★**Khaled Mattawa: Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** This Libyan poet, a U-M English professor, reads from *Fugitive Atlas*, his new collection of exquisite poems exploring how we inherit the journeys of our ancestors and open up with those we love. Followed by a discussion with Left Margin LIT (Berkeley, CA) codirector Rachel Richardson. 7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-khaled-mattawa-rachel-richardson. Free, donations accepted. 585-5567.

★**"Richard III": EMU Theatre Department.** Dec. 4-6 & 11-13. EMU drama professor Lee Stille directs EMU students in this virtual production of Shakespeare's history play about a villainous king, staged in today's political and pandemic climate. 7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 2 p.m. (Sun.). For online URL, see umich.edu/cmta/productions/current-season. Tickets \$10 at EMUtitix.com. 487-1220.

★**"A Very Merry Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea.** Dec. 4 & 5. Drive-in rebroadcast of a performance by this Chelsea-based company of young dancers (ages 8-18) of *The Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky's classic ballet with choreography by artistic director Wendi DuBois. With narration based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." Prerecorded earlier this year at the Chelsea Fairgrounds barn and Sharon Mills Park. 7 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Tickets \$30 per car in advance only. BalletChelsea.org, 475-3070.

★**"Play at Home": Pioneer High School Theatre Guild.** Dec. 4-6. Pioneer High students direct 8 short virtual staged plays by contemporary playwrights responding to the social quarantining brought on by Covid-19. Hansol Jung's *The Librarian* is about a clown trying to rewrite their life with the help of a librarian, Josie Seid's *A Wing and a Prayer* is about a fairy godmother who's accidentally summoned by 4 modern women planning to attend a feminist lecture, and Madeline Sayet's *Pets Need Privacy Too* takes the perspective of a dog who never gets alone time. Available from 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 through Dec. 6, online at a2ptiguild.org. \$5, \$10, or \$15 donations recommended.

★**"Telling Stories: Resilience and Struggle in Contemporary Narrative Drawing": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Talk by Amy Cutler, an internationally acclaimed American figurative artist best known for her enigmatic depictions of women performing strange, cryptic tasks such as sewing tigers and

dancing with chairs on their heads. Her works have been shown in the MoMA (NY), Hammer Museum (L.A.), and other U.S. & European galleries and museums. 8 p.m., online at stamps.umich.edu/stamps or dptv.org. Free. 936-0671.

★**"My Ghostlight 2020": U-M Musical Theatre Department.** Dec. 4, 11, & 18 (different programs). U-M musical theater students present their original revue, a mix of songs, skits, and dances. The music includes musical theater classics, along with pop, folk, and jazz tunes. Prerecorded over a 3-month span in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. 8 p.m., online at YouTube.com (search "umich smtd"); each of the 3 installments available for 1 week only. Free.

★**"Jazz After Dark": Weber's Inn.** Every Fri. & Sat. Jazz originals and standards by a trio (Fri.) or quartet (Sat.) led by veteran local bassist Rob Crozier. 9-11 p.m., Weber's Habitat Lounge, 3050 Jackson. No cover. 665-3636.

## 5 SATURDAY

★**U-M Football vs. Maryland.** Livestream only from Michigan Stadium. Time TBA, online at mGoBlue.com/sports/football/schedule. Free. 764-0247.

★**14th Annual Holiday Studio Tour and Sale: Kate Tremel & Friends.** Dec. 5 & 6. Online sale of works by local artists, including ceramics and lighting by Kate Tremel, Benjamin Teague, Monica Wilson, and Ira Bondarenko; jewelry by Kristine Bolhuis, Barbara Yoffee, Nancy Melet, and Idelle Hammond-Sass; glass art by Janet Kelman; and chocolates and confections by Nancy Biehn. Also, from noon-4 p.m., various virtual interactive activities including artist visits, studio and gallery walk-throughs, live demos, and more. All day, for online URL see KateTremel.com. Free admission. 709-4899.

★**12th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show.** Dec. 5, 12, 19, & 24. Popular local radio personality Lance hosts a live old-fashioned radio variety show with prerecorded performances from past Hometown shows, including the *Dodworth Saxhorn Band*, St. Francis Catholic Church handbell choir, the *Depot Town Big Band*, the *Ypsilanti Community Choir*, the *Women of Kerrytown Concert House*, the *Brain Plasticity Ukulele Collective*, local folksinger *Katie Geddes*, the *Concordia University Choir*, *Boychoir of Ann Arbor*, and many more. Also, Christmas shopping, decorating, and cooking tips, and Santa offers updates on Christmas preparations from the North Pole. 8 a.m.-noon, broadcast on 1290-AM WLBY and 1290WLBY.com. Free. 717-2182.

★**"Meet a Scientist": U-M Natural History Museum.** U-M research scientists in a range of fields from astronomy and zoology to psychology and chemistry give short slide-illustrated presentations to all age 5 & up. Q&A. 10 a.m.-noon, for online URL preregister at lsa.umich.edu/umnmh/visitors/things-to-do/meet-a-scientist.html. Free, donations appreciated. 764-0478, umnmh.info@umich.edu.

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Speedway.** Dec. 5 & 19. One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Each racer can bring one guest spectator only. Masks required, Covid-19 screening at entrance, social distancing enforced. On-site Nankin Hobby shop. Racing starts at 10 a.m. (speedway opens at 8 a.m.), and goes until everyone is done. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. \$15 to race (additional entries, \$10). Facebook.com/WashtenawRcSpeedway.

★**"Christmas on the Farm Revised": Waterloo Farm Museum.** Dec. 5 & 6. This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Stroll on the farmhouse grounds that house a decorated 2-story brick farmhouse, 1840s log house, and outbuildings (with a blacksmith at work at the forge). Bonfire. Also, sales of baked goods, holiday greens, and many other gifts. Live music TBA. Petting goats on Sun. only. Masks required, social distancing enforced. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon-4 p.m. (Sun.), Waterloo Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. Free. (517) 648-3676.

★**"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House.** A popular holiday tradition featuring Today's Brass Quintet, an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classical, and holiday tunes. With trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and Derek Lockhart,

tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Livestream from KCH. 11 a.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. Free, donations accepted. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.

★**"Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy.** Every Sat. & Sun. Conservancy staffers introduce *Sven the reindeer*, Mike the Shire horse, and Nanai the Siberian lynx on the indoor stage. Guests invited to view other animals on display, including a kangaroo, albino alligator, African crested porcupines, and binturongs. Masks required. 1-2:30 p.m. & 3-4:30 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$10 (kids ages 2-12, \$8; age 2 & under, free) in advance only at TheCreatureConservancy.org (capacity limited). 929-9324.

★**33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Veteran Tony-winning Broadway star Tovah Feldshuh discusses her new memoir, *Lilyville: Mother, Daughter, and Other Roles I've Played*, about shifting expectations of women. 7 p.m.

★**"Holidays at Home": Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.** Virtual program featuring a demo with Simply Scrumptious staffers on how to make falafel sliders and "Figs in a Blanket," along with improvisational soul-flavored folk-rock by local singer-songwriter and guitarist Adam Labeaux and cellist Sara Gibson. Also, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, EMU president James Smith, and YMOW executive director Alison Foreman offer brief remarks, and medically-homebound YMOW clients say "Thank you." Proceeds provide 2 seniors with a week's worth of meals. Auction. Ticket price includes 2 multicourse meals prepared by Simply Scrumptious delivered to your door earlier today. Followed at 7:30 p.m. by a virtual wine tasting (home delivery of wine samples, \$50) with Lake Michigan Vintners. 6-7:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at a2itix.com by Nov. 30. Tickets \$161.44 (group of 8, \$584.25). (810) 333-9208, giving@ymow.org.

★**Chris Buhalis: The Ark Family Room Series.** Popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals, often with an acerbic topical edge, in a rich, warm voice. His latest CD, *Big Car Town* is a collection of songs exploring and celebrating his working-class heritage. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor. Free, donations appreciated. 761-1451.

★**Darlene Love: The Ark Livestream Series.** Christmas show, livestreamed from Sony Hall in NYC, by this iconic pop-rock vocalist, the often uncredited lead vocalist on early 1960s girl group classics like "He's a Rebel" and "The Boy I'm Gonna Marry." She's probably most widely recognized from her annual performances of the holiday classic "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" for the last 29 years of the Letterman show. 8 p.m., for livestream URL and tickets (\$35), see showclix.com/tickets/darlene-love-the-ark.

## 6 SUNDAY

★**Sunday Artisan Market.** Every Sun., except Dec. 27. Juried market of local handmade arts and crafts. Social distancing enforced. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913-9622.

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to join a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846-9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com.

★**"Family Nature Adventures: How Animals Overwinter": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Dec. 6 & 16. A WCPARC naturalist leads a hike and talks about how local wildlife survive in colder temperatures. Masks required. 2-3:30 p.m., County Farm Park, 2230 Platt. Free. Capacity limited to 10 people; preregistration required for all age 2 & up at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (search Activity #821002).

★**"Messiah Mixtape Watch Party": University Musical Society Digital Presentation.** Dec. 6-31. University Choral Union director Scott Hanoian and UMS programming and production VP Michael Kondziolka show archival recordings of Handel's beloved oratorio performed by the 170-voice chorus Choral Union, featuring thunderous sing-alongs of the "Hallelujah" Chorus. In some variation, this has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president)

Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. Anytime from 2 p.m. on Dec. 6 through Dec. 31, online at ums.org/performance/messiah-mixtape-ums-digital-presentation. Free. 764-2538.

★**"Take an Advent Stroll": First Presbyterian Church.** Dec. 6, 13, & 20. Walk the grounds of this church and enjoy live Christmas carols sung by the church choir and sweet treats. Take home an "Advent Happening" and a Christmas card craft kit. Followed at 5 p.m. by a tree lighting. Masks required. 3:30-5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466 ext. 342.

★**"All Stirred Up: Suffrage Cookbooks, Food, and the Battle for Women's Right to Vote": Culinary Historians.** Food writer Laura Kumin, author of the blog *Mother Would Know*, discusses her new book. 4-5 p.m., for online URL preregister at CulinaryHistoriansAnnArbor.org/program-schedule. Free. a2culinaryhistorians@gmail.com.

★**Kol HaLev Rehearsal: Temple Beth Emeth.** Every Sun. All adults invited to join the rehearsals of this volunteer choir that sings both Jewish sacred and secular music. Led by TBE cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut. Pianist Taylor Flowers accompanies. 7 p.m., for online URL email CantorHayut@TempleBethEmeth.org. Free. 665-4744.

★**"Broadway on a Mission": Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County Virtual Benefit.** An evening of Broadway favorites by U-M musical theater grads and others. Featuring songs from *Wicked*, *Frozen*, *Hamilton*, the *Book of Mormon*, and more. 7 p.m., for online URL preregister at jfsAnnArbor.org/broadway-on-a-mission. Tickets \$100. 237-6403.

## 7 MONDAY

★**"Public Diplomacy: A Vision for 2021 and Beyond": U-M Weiser Diplomacy Center.** U.S. Public Diplomacy Advisory Commission director Vivian S. Walker in conversation with U-M Weiser Diplomacy Center director John Ciorciari. Opening remarks by Global Forum for Scholars & Practitioners of Diplomacy rep Rejaul Karim. 4-5 p.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/visionfor2021. Free. fspp-diplomacy@umich.edu.

★**33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Food blogger & menu consultant Danielle Renov, an American expat in Jerusalem, discusses *Peas, Love, & Carrots: The Cookbook*. 2:30 p.m.

★**"Dense and Infectious Environments": U-M Science, Technology, & Society Department.** U-M anthropology professor Elizabeth Roberts discusses human nature from the perspective of human and environmental sciences. 4-5:30 p.m., online at lsa.umich.edu/sts. Free. umSTScontact@umich.edu.

## 8 TUESDAY

★**U-M Ice Hockey vs. Minnesota.** Dec. 8 & 9. Livestream only from Yost Ice Arena. Time TBA, online at mGoBlue.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey/schedule. Free. 764-0247.

★**"Sunrise Nature Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle leads a casual hike and discusses how the plants, animals, and insects are prepping for winter. Bring binoculars, if you wish. Masks required. 8:30-10 a.m., Scio Woods Preserve, north side of Scio Church Rd., west of Wagner. Free. Capacity limited; preregistration required for all age 2 & over by emailing boglee@washtenaw.org.

★**"Women in American Soccer and European Football: Different Roads to Shared Glory on the Field and in Society": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M comparative politics professor Andrei Markovits. Q&A. 10-11:30 a.m., for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. \$35 per lecture (for 10-lecture series, \$80); for members, \$10 per lecture and \$55 for 10-lecture series. \$25 annual membership fee. 998-9351.

★**"Student-Made Video Games Virtual Showcase": U-M Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Department.** U-M students present their final projects. 7 p.m., online at 494showcase.com. Free. hayleya@umich.edu.

★**"Movie Night": Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & over invited to discuss *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*, Ana Lily Amirpour's 2015 Persian horror film about a

★ Denotes a free event

skateboarding vampire who preys on men who disrespect women, and *Moon*, Duncan Jones' 2009 contemplative sci-fi flick about an astronaut who's been isolated on the moon on a 3-year-long mission. 7-9 p.m., for online URL email [esrabkin@umich.edu](mailto:esrabkin@umich.edu). Free. [www-personal.umich.edu/~esrabkin/jfsfisch.html](http://www-personal.umich.edu/~esrabkin/jfsfisch.html).

★“Pub Sing”: Ann Arbor Morris. Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. No set program; all participants are welcome to lead a song with a singable, reasonably easy-to-learn chorus. This is a participatory event. 7-10 p.m., for online URL email [bsagan@msu.edu](mailto:bsagan@msu.edu). Free.

★“Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime”: Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss radical French philosopher Bruno Latour's 2018 book. A “social constructionist,” Latour is known for believing that facts are not objective and free-standing, but socially produced. 7:30 p.m., for online URL email [nshiffler@comcast.net](mailto:nshiffler@comcast.net) or call. Free. 971-1157.

★Jen Cass & the Lucky Nows: The Ark Family Room Series. Bluesy Americana roots-rock by an ensemble led by veteran Detroit singer-songwriter Jen Cass. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see [Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://www.facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor). Free, donations appreciated. 761-1451.

## 9 WEDNESDAY

★33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center. See 2 Wednesday. Today: Yale University French professor Maurice Samuels discusses his new book, *The Betrayal of the Duchess: The Scandal That Unmade the Bourbon Monarchy and Made France Modern*. 1:30 p.m.

“How Do We Heal the Widening Divide?” U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Election 2020. WSU political science professor Kevin Deegan-Krause discusses how the U.S. became so politically polarized and its impact on our daily lives. 10-11:30 a.m., for online URL preregister at [OLLI.umich.edu](https://olli.umich.edu). \$35 per lecture (for 6-lecture series, \$60); for members, \$10 per lecture and \$35 for 6-lecture series. \$25 annual membership fee. 998-9351.

★“Whither American Climate Policy? Lessons from the Trump Presidency and State Policy Engagement”: U-M Ford School of Public Policy. U-M public policy professors Barry Rabe and Joshua Basseches discuss Rabe's new book, *Trump, the Administrative Presidency, and Federalism*. Noon-1:30 p.m., for online URL see [bit.ly/americanclimate](https://bit.ly/americanclimate). Free. [fjpp-deanassist@umich.edu](mailto:fjpp-deanassist@umich.edu).

★Book Discussion: Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staffers lead a discussion of W.E.B. Du Bois' landmark book *The Souls of Black Folk*. 6-7 p.m., for online URL see [aadl.org/node/572969](https://aadl.org/node/572969) the day of the event. Free. 327-4200.

★“Holiday Jewelry”: The Guild of Artists & Artisans. Temperance (MI) and Florida-based clay artist Kimberly Arden demonstrates how to make snowman beads using polymer clay, a hardening modeling clay. 6-8 p.m., for online URL preregister at [TheGuild.org/Gutman\\_Gallery/Events-Workshops](https://TheGuild.org/Gutman_Gallery/Events-Workshops). \$15, includes a recorded version of the demo. [Elizabeth@TheGuild.org](mailto:Elizabeth@TheGuild.org).

★“An Evening of Poetry and Written Word”: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. 7 p.m. (sign-up for new participants begins at 6:45 p.m.), for online URL email [cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com](mailto:cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com). Free.

★Opera One-Acts: U-M Opera Theatre. Dec. 9-16. Abigail Cote directs U-M students in 2 short operas by prominent contemporary American composers. Christopher Cerrone's *All Wounds Bleed*, is a retelling of the classical myth of Echo & Narcissus that features a soprano nymph Echo, a mezzo Hera, and a tenor Narcissus. Jake Runestad's *Daughters of the Bloody Duke* is a dark comedy about a revenge-crazed family. Prerecorded on Oct. 9 in the McIntosh Theatre. U-M student pianists Natalie Sherer and Chao Gao accompany, respectively. Available from 8 p.m. Dec. 9 through Dec. 16, online at [YouTube.com](https://YouTube.com) (search “umich smid”). Free.

## 10 THURSDAY (HANUKKAH BEGINS)

★20th Annual Holiday Show & Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. Dec. 10-12. Show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. 1-6 p.m. (Thurs. & Sat.) & 1-7 p.m. (Fri.), [Yourist Studio Gallery](https://YouristStudioGallery.com), 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

★Annual Nobel Symposium: U-M Center for the Study of Complex Systems. Seven U-M scholars each discuss the work, impact, and personalities of the six 2020 Nobel laureates. With chemistry professor Nils Walter, microbiology & immunology professor Katherine Spindler, mathematics professor Lydia Bieri, astronomy professor Doug Richstone, economics professor Tilman Börgers, literature professor Linda Gregerson, and public policy professor Susan Waltz. 1:10-4:45 p.m., online at [bit.ly/nobellaureates2020](https://bit.ly/nobellaureates2020). Free. 763-3301.

★“Jazz Chats with Cool Cats”: Kerrytown Concert House. Local drummer Pete Siers and upright bassist Marion Hayden, both local jazz favorites, discuss topics related to jazz and perform a program TBA. Livestream from KCH. 5:30 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com](https://KerrytownConcertHouse.com). Free, donations accepted. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

★“A Drive-Through Christmas Experience”: Ann Arbor Baptist Church. Dec. 10-13. Carside entertainment featuring a decorated 25-foot Christmas tree and a live Nativity scene. Also, screening of *The Christmas Truce*, a 5-minute animation based on WWI soldiers' memories of an unusual Christmas on the front lines. Take-home cookies and hot chocolate (or eat them in the car, if you like). 6-8 p.m., Ann Arbor Baptist Church, 2150 S. Wagner. Free. 995-5144.

★33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center. See 2 Wednesday. Today: U-M professors Andrei Markovits (political science) and Kenneth Garner (history) discuss their new book *The Boundaries of Pluralism: The World of the University of Michigan's Jewish Students from 1897 to 1945*. 7 p.m.

## 11 FRIDAY

★“An Organist's Christmas”: American Guild of Organists. A festive program featuring prerecorded solo pipe organ performances by local organists Charles Miller, Sarah Simko, and Gail Jennings. 7-8 p.m., online at [AnnArborAGO.org](https://AnnArborAGO.org). Free. [WebAdmin@AnnArborAGO.org](mailto:WebAdmin@AnnArborAGO.org).

Zach Martina: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 11 & 12. A local family man, Martina is known for his fast-paced shows and dark jokes that are delivered in a delightful manner. Preceded by 2 opening acts. 18 & up only. Masks required, except when eating or drinking; alcohol is served. 7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$15 reserved seating in advance, \$17 general admission at the door (capacity reduced to 20%). [aaComedy.com](https://aaComedy.com), 996-9080.

★“My Ghostlight 2020”: U-M Department of Musical Theatre. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

★Laith Al-Saadi: The Ark Family Room Series. Popular local singer-guitarist who performs an eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals. He rocketed to national prominence in 2016 with a 4th-place finish on NBC's *The Voice*. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see [Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor). Free, but donations appreciated. 761-1451.

M. Ward: The Ark Livestream Series. Folk- and blues-based Americana by this veteran Portland (OR) singer-songwriter who tonight celebrates the release of *Think of Spring*, a collection of his acoustic guitar arrangements of all the songs on Billie Holiday's 1958 LP *Lady in Satin*. 9 p.m., for online URL and tickets (\$16), see [TheArk.org/shows-events/2020/dec/11/m-ward-%E2%80%93-think-spring-album-release-show](https://TheArk.org/shows-events/2020/dec/11/m-ward-%E2%80%93-think-spring-album-release-show). 994-2025.

## 12 SATURDAY

★10th Annual Friends at Front Porch Holiday Sale: Front Porch Fiber Studio. Dec. 12 & 13. Online show and sale of decorative & wearable handwoven and hand-felted textiles, fine art, book art, and more. All day, online at [UnderwoodFrontPorch.com](https://UnderwoodFrontPorch.com). Free admission; sale pick-up at 1219 Traver Rd. or delivery (available for some but not all artists). 478-9053.

★“Winter Fruits”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance shows and discusses shrubs and vines that provide sources of food for winter foraging wildlife. Masks required. 9-11 a.m., Parker Mill County Park, Geddes Rd. (just east of US-23). Free. Capacity limited to 10 people; preregistration required for all age 2 & up by emailing [severances@washtenaw.org](mailto:severances@washtenaw.org).

★Know Obstacles: Oz's Music Environment. All invited to play instruments, sing songs, and tell jokes with members of this band for kids and adults with special needs. Spectators welcome. 10:30 a.m., for online URL see [bit.ly/ozkidsopenmic](https://bit.ly/ozkidsopenmic) (meeting ID 933 1925 5392; password 362147). Free. 662-8283.

★Open Studio & Art Sale. Dec. 12 & 13. Indoor show and sale of drawings, paintings, prints, and sculptures by local artists Helen Gotlib and Dylan Strzynski. Also, a chance to look at their works in progress. Capacity limited to 8 people; bonfire (weather permitting) and hot apple cider, if there's a wait. Masks required. Noon-6 p.m., 7281 Toma Rd., Dexter. Free admission. [helengotlib@gmail.com](mailto:helengotlib@gmail.com).

★55th Annual Community Messiah Sing. All people capable of reading and singing vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed virtual performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 100 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. Volunteer instrumentalists welcome. 2 p.m., for online URL, email Meg Gower at [megower90@gmail.com](mailto:megower90@gmail.com). Free. [Facebook.com](https://Facebook.com) (search “Community Messiah Sing”).

Vienna Teng: The Ark Livestream Series. A former software engineer, this San Francisco pop-rock singer-songwriter—who lived in town while getting a master's in sustainable enterprise at the U-M—is known for her graceful melodies and evocative lyrics. Her songs range from spare, melancholy piano ballads to lush, multilayered musical landscapes. She once toured Europe with a quartet from the Berlin Philharmonic. 2 p.m.,

for URL and tickets (\$10), see [TheArk.org/shows-events/2020/dec/12/Vienna-teng-live-close-home-bluehouse-studio](https://TheArk.org/shows-events/2020/dec/12/Vienna-teng-live-close-home-bluehouse-studio). 761-1451.

★“Illuminate”: Beth Israel Congregation/Jewish Community Center. Carside entertainment. Highlights include fire eating and other tricks by Detroit Circus performers and an 8-foot light-up dreidel. Fresh popcorn. 6:30-8 p.m., Beth Israel parking lot, 2000 Washtenaw Ave. Free, donations for Food Gatherers accepted. Preregistration requested at [BethIsrael-AA.org/form/illuminate](https://BethIsrael-AA.org/form/illuminate). Engage@BethIsrael-AA.org.

Noa Baum: Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild Living Room Live! Live performance by this American-based Israeli storyteller and writer whose stories deal with big matters such as curiosity, awareness, acceptance, and the similarities and differences between us. Host is Chelsea-based fiction writer & playwright Steve Daut. 7 p.m., for online URL preregister at [TinyURL.com/LRLive2U](https://TinyURL.com/LRLive2U). Pay what you can (\$10 or more suggested donation). [Mail@SteveDaut.com](mailto:Mail@SteveDaut.com).

★“New Moon Hike”: Leslie Science & Nature Center. LSNc staffers lead a family-friendly hike and discuss how different animals see in the dark. Also, visit with the center's nocturnal residents. Followed by moon-themed stories & poems around a bonfire. Hot chocolate—bring your own mug if you wish. Masks required for age 4 & up. 7-8:30 p.m., LSNc, 1831 Traver Rd. \$5 per person. Capacity limited; preregistration required. [LeslieSNC.org](https://LeslieSNC.org), 997-1553.

★“Holiday Radio Hour”: Kerrytown Concert House. KCH director Monica Swartout-Bebow hosts a night of performances by area vocalists TBA. With accompaniment by bassist Paul Keller, guitarist Randy Napoleon, and drummer Luther Allison. Livestream from KCH. 7:30 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com/kch-holiday-radio](https://KerrytownConcertHouse.com/kch-holiday-radio). Free, donations accepted. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

Zach Martina: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Friday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center. See 2 Wednesday. Today: Former *Jewish Week* cultural editor Liel Leibovitz, *Unorthodox* podcast host Stephanie Butnick, and Yale University Journalism Initiative coordinator Mark Oppenheimer discuss their 2019 book *The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia: From Abraham to Zabar's and Everything in Between*. 8 p.m.

★“The Dance of Death I”: U-M Residential College Players. RC sophomore Darby Williams directs her radio play adaptation of August Strindberg's masterful 1900 horror drama about a couple trapped in a miserable marriage on an isolated island. 8 p.m., online at [YouTube.com](https://YouTube.com) (search “RC Players”). \$5 donation recommended via Venmo (search “@RC\_Players”). 694-4926.

## 13 SUNDAY

★33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center. See 2 Wednesday. Today: Emory University Jewish and German studies professor Miriam Udel discusses her new collection *Honey on the Page: A Treasury of Yiddish Children's Literature* (11 a.m.), and Iowa University history professor emeritus David Schoenbaum discusses *The Lives of Isaac Stern* (7 p.m.), his 2020 biography of the world-renowned American violin virtuoso. Various times.

★“The Weightings of Six Universal Moral Values Defining Our Various Political and Religious Groups”: First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion. All invited to join a discussion led by Bob Bishop, founder and CEO of the surgical team communication app Operhythm. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., for online URL call or email [debbie@fumc-a2.org](mailto:debbie@fumc-a2.org). Free. 662-4536, [TinyURL.com/FUMC-ComScience-Religion](https://TinyURL.com/FUMC-ComScience-Religion).

★“Santa's Winter Wonderland Walk”: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalists lead short walks along a trail lined with candy canes to meet various Christmas characters, including Santa in his workshop. 1-3 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$5 per person (kids 2 & under, free). Capacity limited; preregistration required by Dec. 12. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★“Ho, Ho, Ho! The North Pole Chronicles”: The Saline Area Players. Sam Kempf and Mackenna Kofahl direct local actors—plus a few from out of state—in a virtual staged reading of Houston playwright Pat Cook's family-friendly play centered around a press conference with Santa, his reindeer, and the elves who work a gift

## galleries

### New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library, online only at [aadl.org/TinyExpo](https://aadl.org/TinyExpo). Tiny Expo's Winter Showcase (ends Dec. 31). Show and sale of works by more than 50 local artists and crafters. 327-4200.

Barickuda Gallery, trustArt Studios, 7885 Jackson, ste. 1. Drawdown: Pathways Out of Global Warming (ends Jan. 9). Works in various media by local artists reflecting on the challenges of and solutions to global warming. In person by appointment only; masks required. [TrustArtStudios@gmail.com](mailto:TrustArtStudios@gmail.com).

Gallery 55+, online only at [medicine.umich.edu/dept/geriatrics-center/virtual-art-shows](https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/geriatrics-center/virtual-art-shows). Helga Haller & Kay Gould-Caskey (ends Dec. 31). Prerecorded exhibit walkthroughs by local artists Haller (acrylic and watercolor) and Gould-Caskey (photography on metal). 998-9353.

Maker Works, online only at [maker-works.com/maker-gallery](https://maker-works.com/maker-gallery). The Makers of Maker Works (ends Dec. 31). Show and

sale of furniture, instruments, jewelry, and decorative art made by members of this southside workspace. 222-4911.

U-M Institute for the Humanities, 202 S. Thayer. Watch Me Work: Portraits of Self (ends Dec. 18). Eight intimate paintings of black women working by Detroit artist Sydney G. James, viewable from outside the building only (illuminated 24/7). Results or Roses (through Dec. 18). New and collected fiber-based work by Detroit artist Sarah Rose Sharp. Online only at [sites.lsa.umich.edu/HumanitiesGalleries/Sarah-Rose-Sharp](https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/HumanitiesGalleries/Sarah-Rose-Sharp).

WSG Gallery, Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Selected Works (Dec. 1-31). Salon-style display of works in various media by WSG's 14 members. Masks required. Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. [wsg-art.com](https://wsg-art.com), 994-8004.

22 North Gallery, 22 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Series (Dec. 4-19). Over 70 monographs by local mixed-media assemblage artist John Gutoskey. In person by appointment only; masks required and social distancing enforced. Reception Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m. [gallery@22North.org](https://gallery@22North.org).

suggestion hotline. Afternoon time TBA, online at [Facebook.com/SalineAreaPlayers](https://www.facebook.com/SalineAreaPlayers). Free.

★ **LezRead Book Club.** All queer women invited to discuss 2 books: *I Shimmer Sometimes, Too* Boston-based poet Porsha Olayiwola's 2019 debut collection about self and community care, and *As the Crow Flies* Ohio cartoonist Melanie Gillman's 2017 collection of webcomics about a queer black teenager who finds herself in an all-white Christian youth backpacking camp. 4-5 p.m. or so, for online URL see [a2LezRead.tumblr.com](https://a2LezRead.tumblr.com). Free. 686-4956.

★ **"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series.** U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio in one of her popular lecture-concerts, topic TBA. With bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers. Livestream from KCH. 4:15 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/ellen-rowe](https://KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/ellen-rowe). Free, donations accepted. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

★ **"Scones & Scandal": Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Beth Byer's 2018 mystery. 4:30 p.m., for online URL call Aline Clayton Carroll at 769-2149 and give her your phone number and email. Free.

★ **Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Open Mic.** Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillan. 7-9 p.m., for online URL preregister at [MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam](https://MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam). Free. 973-7791.

★ **"Story Slam": First Presbyterian Church.** About 6 congregation and community members TBA tell 3-5 minute stories on the theme "Those Who Dream." Followed by a virtual reception led by First Presbyterian minister Melissa Anne Rogers. 7 p.m., online at [bit.ly/thosewhodream2020](https://bit.ly/thosewhodream2020). Free. 662-4466 ext. 342.

## 14 MONDAY

★ **33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Brooklyn writer Myla Goldberg discusses *Feast Your Eyes* (1 p.m.), her 2019 novel about a photographer grappling to balance ambition and motherhood, and Israeli writer Eshkol Nevo discusses *The Last Interview* (4 p.m.), his 2018 novel about a writer who confronts the many, often contradictory facets of his identity. Various times.

★ **"Knitted Glass: How Does She Do That?": Ann Arbor FiberArts Guild.** Talk by Seattle-based Canadian sculptor Carol Milne, who incorporates the techniques of knitting, wax casting, mold-making, and kiln-casting in her most recent works. 7 p.m., for online URL request access on [AnnArborFiberArts.org/contact](https://AnnArborFiberArts.org/contact). Free. [AnnArborFiberArts@gmail.com](mailto:AnnArborFiberArts@gmail.com).

★ **Scandinavian Music Jam.** Dec. 14 & 28. Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience playing Scandinavian music necessary. 7:30-9:30 p.m., for online URL email [bsagan@msu.edu](mailto:bsagan@msu.edu). Free. (908) 721-2599.

## 15 TUESDAY

★ **"Joy in the Time of Covid-19": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Lasting Impact of Covid-19 Series.** Talk by U-M health behavior and health education professor Victor Strecher. 10-11:30 a.m., online at [bit.ly/joytime2020](https://bit.ly/joytime2020). Free. 998-9351.

★ **33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Yale University law student David Hopen discusses *The Orchard* (1 p.m.), his new coming-of-age novel about a devout Jewish high school student whose exposure to the secular world undermines his understanding of himself. UCLA history professor Sarah Stein discusses her 2019 book *Family Papers: A Sephardic Journey Through the Twentieth Century* (7 p.m.). Various times.

★ **Play Reading Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble.** All invited to join members of this local ensemble to read a part in a short play (one-act or under 2 hours). Followed by a discussion on the Brass Tackian principles of clarity, universality, entertainment, and the essential elements of theater. Listeners welcome. 6:30 p.m., for online URL email [TheBrassTacksEnsemble@gmail.com](mailto:TheBrassTacksEnsemble@gmail.com) by 5 p.m. the day of the event. Free. [Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble](https://Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble).

## 16 WEDNESDAY

★ **Book Discussion: Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staffers lead a discussion of *The Other Side*, Jacqueline Woodson's picture book about two kid neighbors, one black and one white, who strike up a friendship at the fence that separates their homes. 6-7 p.m., for online URL see [AADL.org/node/574377](https://AADL.org/node/574377) the day of the event. Free. 327-4200.

★ **"Evenings with Aaron: Christmas Stories": Deep Spring Center.** All invited to discuss their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. In this Christmas-themed program, Aaron tells stories of his time with Jesus. 7 p.m., for online URL preregister at [DeepSpring.org](https://DeepSpring.org). \$10-\$35 suggested donation. 477-5848, [DeepSpring9@gmail.com](mailto:DeepSpring9@gmail.com).

★ **33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Wired editor-at-large Steven Levy discusses *Facebook: The Inside Story*, his new comprehensive history of the controversial social media platform. 7 p.m.

★ **"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** Dec. 16-Jan. 16. U-M opera lecturer Abigail Cote directs U-M students in the acclaimed NYC-based composer Missy Mazzoli and her librettist Royce Vavrek's atmospheric 2018 chamber opera based on Karen Russell's short story. It's about an American family struggling to meet the overwhelming challenges of homesteading during the westward movement of settlers in the late 19th-century. A small chamber orchestra conducted by U-M voice professor Kirk Severson accompanies. Prerecorded in November in the Power Center. Available from 8 p.m. Dec. 16 through Jan. 16, online at [YouTube.com/search/umichsmt](https://YouTube.com/search/umichsmt). Free.

★ **John Doe: The Ark Livestream Series.** The former frontman of the legendary L.A. punk band X, Doe is a versatile singer-songwriter whose songs mix and match folk, country, rock, punk, and pop genres. He describes his latest (2016) CD, *The Westerner*, as a "psychedelic soul record from the Arizona desert." Tonight's show, a performance with his trio, includes both new songs he's been accumulating for a new album and old favorites. 9 p.m., for online URL and tickets (\$20-\$65), see [BoxOffice.mandolin.com/collections/john-doe-s-travis-county-world-tour](https://BoxOffice.mandolin.com/collections/john-doe-s-travis-county-world-tour). 761-1451.

## 17 THURSDAY

★ **33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Sixth & I Synagogue (Washington, D.C.) former director Esther Safran Foer discusses her new memoir, *I Want You to Know We're Still Here: A Post-Holocaust Memoir* (1 p.m.). Brandeis University American Jewish history professor Jonathan Sarna discusses Jewish American Cora

Wilburn's 1860 coming-of-age novel *Cosella Wayne: Or, Will and Destiny* (8 p.m.). Various times.

★ **"Laughter at the Happy Hour": Kerrytown Concert House.** Songs and stories with an artist TBA. Livestream from KCH. 5:30 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/laughter-at-the-happy-hour](https://KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/laughter-at-the-happy-hour). Free, donations accepted. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

## 18 FRIDAY (HANUKKAH ENDS)

★ **"American Women Illustrators and Cartoonists": U-M Clements Library.** Talk by Library of Congress curator Martha Kennedy. 10 a.m., for online URL preregister at [myumi.ch/gjgZR](https://myumi.ch/gjgZR). Free. 649-3370.

★ **"9th Annual Holiday Pops Concert": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** A program of holiday classics TBA, prerecorded last week. 5:30 p.m., online at [a2so.com](https://a2so.com). Free, donations accepted. 994-4801.

★ **Jen Baker and Dave Douglas. Edgefest 24 (Kerrytown Concert House).** Double bill with 2 pioneering NYC-based brass musicians. Baker, a trombonist and composer known for redefining the role of trombone in contemporary music, blends site-specific field recording with live performance in her most recent project. Trumpeter and composer Douglas, nominated for two Grammy Awards, is known for his eclectic, wide-ranging musical projects and compositions, which originated in an adventurous post-bop sound and have gone on to explore several non-jazz musical styles and idioms, including classical, European folk, and klezmer. Opening acts are 2 Detroit artists, pianist Kenny Greene and flute & reeds player Rafael Statin. The 3rd in a series of monthly concerts that constitute this year's virtual edition of Edgefest, listed by *DownBeat* as one of the world's top 50 jazz/avant music festivals. Livestream from KCH. 7:30 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Edgefest](https://KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Edgefest). Free. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

★ **David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Dec. 18 & 19. This polished Grand Rapids comic, a contributing writer to *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, features unexpected takes on everything from marriage and raising kids to current events and ear hair. Preceded by 2 opening acts. 18 & up only. Masks required, except when eating or drinking; alcohol is served. 7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$15 reserved seating in advance, \$17 general admission at the door (capacity reduced to 20%). [aaComedy.com](https://aaComedy.com), 996-9080.

★ **"My Ghostlight 2020": U-M Department of Musical Theatre.** See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

## 19 SATURDAY

★ **75th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Tentative. Everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. All day, various locations. See [WashtenawAudubon.org/events-top/christmas-bird-count](https://WashtenawAudubon.org/events-top/christmas-bird-count) for updates and contact numbers.

★ **"Winter Birding": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Guided walk led by WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring. Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have one. Masks required. 8-10 a.m., *Leonard Preserve*, meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester. Free. Capacity limited to 10 people; preregistration required by emailing [dehringk@washtenaw.org](mailto:dehringk@washtenaw.org).

★ **"Learn How to Use Your Holiday Gifts": MacTechnics.** MacTechnics education VP Fred Seitz, The Villages Apple User Group member Tony Crawford, and Apple systems trainer Christopher Anderson discuss and review new popular technology. Also, troubleshooting for problems raised by audience members. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., for online URL email [Contact@MacTechnics.org](mailto:Contact@MacTechnics.org). Free. [MacTechnics.org](https://MacTechnics.org).

★ **"I'm Streaming of an Alright Christmas": Theatre Nova.** Dec. 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, & 27. Local playwright Carla Milarch and composer R. Mackenzie Lewis codirect the premiere of their contemporary comedic panto about Santa's North Pole operations that are run to the edge of ruin by the "the evil Rona Monster." Santa can't figure out how to unmute himself when video conferencing, and it is uncertain whether or not Rudolph the Reindeer will fly again. A panto is

**Fathom Events.** Daily screenings beginning 8 December in local theaters limited to 20%-35% capacity. For complete, updated schedule, see [FathomEvents.com/](https://FathomEvents.com/) events. Masks required at all times except when eating concessions. Ticket prices TBA in advance online (recommended) & at the door. Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter, 973-8424) and Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, 316-5500). Different times.

Dec. 10: **"Kinky Boots"** (Jerry Mitchell, 2012). Rebroadcast of a London production of the hit musical with music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper. It's about a failing shoemaker and a drag queen who partner up to make a line of high-heeled boots. Ann Arbor 20 only. 3 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Thur. and Fri.).

Dec. 12: **"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"** (Ang Lee, 2000). Exhilarating, action-packed saga of a female warrior and a male martial arts master on a quest to recover a legendary sword. Mandarin, subtitles. Emagine and Ann Arbor 20 (Wed. only). 7 p.m. and 3 p.m. (Wed. only).

Dec. 12, 13, & 15: **"Timecrafters: The Treasure of Pirate's Cove"** (Rick Spalla, 2017). Time traveling pirates battle with a group of kids with the latest tech gadgets. Ann Arbor 20 only. 7 p.m. and 4 p.m. (Sun. only).

Dec. 13 & 14: **"Fiddler on the Roof"** (Norman Jewison, 1971). Warm-hearted, poignant tale of a Jewish family balancing old and new ways in a turn-of-the-century Ukrainian village. Ann Arbor 20 only. Noon & 5 p.m. (Sun.) and 7 p.m. (Mon.).

Dec. 18, 19, & 20: **"The Nutcracker"** (Yuri Grigorovich, 2019). Rebroadcast of the Bolshoi Ballet production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet with classic choreography by Yuri Grigorovich. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the

tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. Ann Arbor 20 only. 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun. only) and 7 p.m.

Dec. 20: **"Babe"** (Chris Noonan, 1995). Disarmingly charming family tale of an orphaned pig adopted by a slightly odd farmer who grows attached to him. Ann Arbor 20 only. 3 & 7 p.m.

Dec. 27: **"Clueless"** (Amy Heckerling, 1995). Goofily endearing tale of high schoolers in Beverly Hills, loosely inspired by Jane Austen's *Emma*. Alicia Silverstone. Emagine only. 1 & 5 p.m.

★ **U-M Center for Armenian Studies.** FREE. For online streaming URL, preregister at [myumi.ch/0W1oY](https://myumi.ch/0W1oY). [ArmenianStudies@umich.edu](mailto:ArmenianStudies@umich.edu). Available all day. Director Q&A on Dec. 2, noon-1:30 p.m.

Nov. 27-Dec. 2: **"Village of Women"** (Tamara Stepanyan, 2019). Documentary about the work and leisure of the residents of an Armenian village where the majority of the adult men leave their homes to go work in Russia for 8 or 9 months of the year. Armenian, subtitles.

★ **U-M Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies.** FREE. For online streaming URL, preregister at [bit.ly/pleaserememberme2020](https://bit.ly/pleaserememberme2020). Followed by a discussion with U-M social work professor Lydia Li. 7-9 p.m.

Dec. 2: **"Please Remember Me"** (Qing Zhao, 2015). Intimate documentary about an elderly couple living in Shanghai with failing physical health and memory loss. Mandarin, subtitles.

★ **U-M Michigan Union Ticket Office.** FREE. For online streaming URL, preregister at [bit.ly/goodtrouble2020](https://bit.ly/goodtrouble2020). Available all day.

## films

Through Dec. 17: **"John Lewis: Good Trouble"** (Dawn Porter, 2020). Documentary about the late GA congressman and civil rights icon, who devoted much of his life to winning and preserving the right to vote.

★ **Michigan Theater.** Two or so evening screenings every Sat., Sun., & Tues., beginning 8 December. Masks required, capacity limited. Take-home only concessions available. For complete, updated schedules, see [MichTheater.org](https://MichTheater.org) or call 668-TIME. Ticket prices TBA in advance online (recommended) & at the door. Different times. Dec. 13: **"The Preacher's Wife"** (Penny Marshall, 1996). Holiday comedy about an embattled inner-city preacher who asks God for help and gets it in the form of a putative angel, who gradually falls in love with the preacher's wife. Denzel Washington, Whitney Houston. 4 p.m.

Dec. 20: **"Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen. 4 p.m.

Dec. 22: **"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"** (Jeremiah S. Chechik, 1989). Comedy about a family holiday gone hilariously awry. Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo. 7 p.m.

Remainder of December schedule TBA.

★ **State Theatre.** One or two evening screening every Fri.-Sun. & Tues. (beginning 8 December) in 2-4 theaters. Masks required, capacity limited. Take-home only concessions available. For complete, updated schedules, see [StateTheatreA2.org](https://StateTheatreA2.org) or call 668-TIME. Ticket prices TBA in advance online (recommended) & at the door. December schedule TBA.

★ Denotes a free event

a British pantomime genre that blends children's stories with a bit of vaudeville sensibility to create a raucous family entertainment. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. (Sat.), 5 p.m. (Sun.), & 7 p.m. (Wed.), for livestream URL see [Theatre-Nova.TicketLeap.com](http://Theatre-Nova.TicketLeap.com). Tickets \$10 per person (for two, \$15; per family, \$25). [a2TheatreNova@gmail.com](mailto:a2TheatreNova@gmail.com).

★**"Christmas Celebration": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** Dec. 19 & 22. Director Darnell Ishmael leads this popular local choir in a family-friendly virtual performance of Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. Also, Willis Patterson and other members TBA read poetry by Howard Thurman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Frances Ridley Havergal. Carol sing-alongs. 7 & 8 p.m. (Sat.) and 4 & 7 p.m. (Tues.), online at [OurOwnThing.org](http://OurOwnThing.org). Free, but tax deductible donations accepted at [OurOwnThing.org/donate](http://OurOwnThing.org/donate) or by check (payable to OOTC, 1410 S. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, 48103). [Janet@OurOwnThing.org](mailto:Janet@OurOwnThing.org).

★**"Science: Shaken, Not Stirred": U-M Natural History Museum.** Tammy's Tastings owner Tammy Coxen demonstrates how to make a holiday-themed cocktail. Then, U-M research scientists discuss their research. Age 21 & up only. 7:30–9 p.m., for online URL preregister at [lsa.umich.edu/ummnh/news-events/events](http://lsa.umich.edu/ummnh/news-events/events). \$35 (cocktail kit from *The Last Word*, price TBA; curbside pickup only). 764-0478, [ummnh.info@umich.edu](mailto:ummnh.info@umich.edu).

★**U-M Groove Performance Group.** Prerecorded virtual concert by this U-M student percussion-and-dance ensemble, which uses both traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). 7:30 p.m. or so, online at [Facebook.com/umGroove](http://Facebook.com/umGroove).

★**David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 18 Friday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★**Crossroads Ceili: The Ark Family Room Series.** An evening of Celtic music, song, and dance hosted by Mick Gavin, a veteran Detroit Irish fiddler (and County Clare native), with an assortment of guest performers TBA. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see [Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](http://Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor). Free, donations appreciated. 761-1451.

★**"Dracula": U-M Residential College Players.** RC sophomore Zora Kwasnik directs Ohio playwright Joe Pine's radio play based on Bram Stoker's classic vampire novel. 8 p.m., online at [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) (search "RC Players"). \$5 donation recommended via Venmo (search "@RC\_Players"). 694-4926.

## 20 SUNDAY

★**"The 2020 Holiday Show": Ann Arbor Dance Classics.** Dec. 20–Jan. 3. Young local dancers present a prerecorded performance TBA. Available anytime from Dec. 20 through Jan. 3, online at [aaDanceClassics.com](http://aaDanceClassics.com). Tickets \$30. 302-4248.

★**"E-Waste": Ecology Center of Ann Arbor.** Ecology Center staffers discuss what happens to electronic waste and offer tips for reducing or recycling it. Followed by a demo on how to reuse common household items as gift wrapping. 10 a.m., online at [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) (search "Ecology Center of Ann Arbor"). Free. [mmunro@ecocenter.org](mailto:mmunro@ecocenter.org).

★**"Rhapsodising on Gershwin": Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series.** Celebrated Detroit stride pianist Alvin Waddles performs his arrangements of popular Gershwin tunes. 4:15 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/alvin-waddles](http://KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/alvin-waddles). Free. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

★**"Christmas Celebration: Concert4aCause": Northside Community Church.** Sheree and Paul Clark direct the church's chancel and bell choirs in a varied program of vocal and instrumental holiday music with spirituals. Accompanied by U-M SMTD students, pianist Mahour Arabian and baritone Jack Williams III. With cameo performances by Cleveland Orchestra bass trombonist Randall Hawes, Michigan Opera Theatre violist John Madison, NCC resident artist Thor Sigurdson, and NCC musical director and pianist Kathryn Goodson. 5 p.m., for online URL see [ncca2.org](http://ncca2.org). Free; donations for a cause TBA accepted. 662-6351.

★**"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor.** Boychoir music director John Boonenberg leads this local ensemble of boys ages 7–18 in its 34th annual Christmas concert prerecorded earlier this month. As always, the program opens with the traditional processional "Once in Royal David's City," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow Shall

Be My Dancing Day." This year's theme, "Sing Peace," showcases Carl Schalk's moving modern hymn "Before the marvels of this night," Bob Beers' gentle folk song "The Peace Carol," and an a cappella arrangement of the popular "Carol of the Bells" with new text by Kirby Shaw. Also, at-home audience encouraged to sing along to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." 7 p.m., for online URL see [aaBoyChoir.org](http://aaBoyChoir.org). Free, donations suggested. 663-5377.

## 21 MONDAY (WINTER SOLSTICE)

★**"Messiah Mixtape Watch Party": University Musical Society Digital Presentation.** See 6 Sunday. All day.

★**"The Tempest: Acts 2 & 3": Community High School Ensemble Theatre.** Tentative date. Quinn Strassel directs CHS students & beloved literature teacher Judith DeWoskin in a virtual staged reading of Acts 2 & 3 of Shakespeare's visionary romance about a magical island ruled by an enigmatic sorcerer and her beautiful daughter. *The Tempest* is filled with verse and song and it contains some of Shakespeare's most gorgeously haunting poetry. Noon or so, online at [a2cet.org](http://a2cet.org); available through Dec. Free. 994-2025.

★**33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Peabody Award-winning journalist Cleo Stiller discusses her 2019 book, *Modern Manhood: Conversations About the Complicated World of Being a Good Man Today* (1 p.m.). And Blauner Books Literary Agency founder and editor Andrew Blauner discusses the 2019 collection he edited, *The Peanut Papers: Writers and Cartoonist on Charlie Brown, Snoopy & the Gang, and the Meaning of Life* (7 p.m.). Various times.

★**"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands On Museum/Leslie Science & Nature Center.** Dec. 21, 22, 28, & 29. AAHOM & LSNC staffers demonstrate various at-home activities and crafts using common household items. Participants are sent a printable PDF to follow along with. 3 p.m. for online URL preregistration required. \$5 per household (members, \$3). [LeslieSNC.org](http://LeslieSNC.org), 997-1553.

★**"Manidoo-Giizoons (Little Spirit Moon)": University Musical Society Digital Presentation.** Live performance by Detroit Ojibwe Chicano rapper Sacramento Knox, who is known for blending hip-hop and visual arts at community jams to create powerful political messages that confront indigenous land loss and other social ills. Tonight, Knox show and discusses his work and traditional Anishinaabe teachings. Then, audience members are invited to contribute sounds to a final track that Knox mixes live. 5:30 p.m., online at [ums.org/performance/manidoo-giizoons-little-spirit-moon](http://ums.org/performance/manidoo-giizoons-little-spirit-moon). Free. 764-2538.

★**Takács Quartet: University Musical Society Digital Presentation.** Dec. 21–31. Founded in Hungary in 1975, this world-renowned, Boulder-based ensemble—a UMS crowd favorite—is known for its warmth, eloquence, and discipline,

and for the ease with which it masters demanding pieces. Violinists Edward Dusingber and Harumi Rhodes, violist Geraldine Walther, and cellist Andrés Fejér are "four of the best string alchemists on the planet," writes a *Chicago Tribune* reviewer. Program includes Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Five Fantasiestücke*, renowned African American composer Florence Price's String Quartet in A minor, Mozart's String Quartet in D minor, and quartets by Bartók and Debussy. Anytime from 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 21 through Dec. 31, online at [ums.org/performance/takacs-quartet-ums-digital-presentation](http://ums.org/performance/takacs-quartet-ums-digital-presentation). Free. 764-2538.

## 22 TUESDAY

★**33rd Annual Jewish Book & Arts Festival: Jewish Community Center.** See 2 Wednesday. Today: Israeli veteran venture capitalist Uri Adoni discusses his new book, *The Unstoppable Startup: Mastering Israel's Secret Rules of Chutzpah*. 1 p.m.

★**"Christmas Concert": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale.** See 19 Saturday. 4 & 7 p.m.

★**"The Spiritual Practice of Ritual": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County.** All invited to discuss how rituals can provide direction and purpose. Led by IRTWC codirector Renee Roederer. 7–8 p.m., for online URL email [roederer@umich.edu](mailto:roederer@umich.edu). Free.

## 23 WEDNESDAY

★**David Broza & Friends: The Ark Livestream Series.** A former winner of Israel's King David Award as top male vocalist, popular Israeli singer-songwriter Broza is an acoustic guitar virtuoso and an intense, mesmerizing performer with a rich, almost unbelievably powerful voice. His repertoire includes songs in Hebrew, Spanish, and English, and his music incorporates traditional Spanish and Jewish melodic elements into an oversized, driven pop idiom that is half Broadway and half rock. 8 p.m., for online URL and tickets (\$10), see form. [JotForm.com/203096411822146](http://JotForm.com/203096411822146). 7612-1451.

## 24 THURSDAY

★**"Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols. Also, a virtual family Christmas pageant presented by the children and the families of the church. Prerecorded earlier this year. All day, online at [bit.ly/standrewsyoutube2020](http://bit.ly/standrewsyoutube2020). Free. 663-0518.

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** A kid-friendly celebration of Christmas stories and music with local pianist Martin Katz, NCC minister Terence McGinn, and others. 7 p.m., for online URL see [ncca2.org](http://ncca2.org). Free. 662-6351.

## 26 SATURDAY (KWANZAA)

★**Cultural Art Strings: Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization Blacksmith Shop Concerts.**

Prerecorded performances by Riverfolk CAS program faculty. With bassists Jacob Warren and Carol Palms; violinists Colleen Wang, Daniel Winnick and Elaine Osterbur; guitarist Ryan Seay; and cellists Zachary Brown and Aileen Rohwer. 7:30 p.m., for livestream URL preregister at [crowdcast.io/e/blacksmith-shop-concerts-4](http://crowdcast.io/e/blacksmith-shop-concerts-4). \$0–\$100 sliding scale. [RiverfolkMusicAndArts@gmail.com](mailto:RiverfolkMusicAndArts@gmail.com).

★**Mark Knope: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Dec. 18 & 19. This Detroit native, a veteran of the national comedy circuit, is known for his impressions of celebrity voices and hilarious takes on the commonplaces of everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. 18 & up only. Masks required, except when eating or drinking; alcohol is served. 7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. \$15 reserved seating in advance, \$17 general admission at the door (capacity reduced to 20%). [aaComedy.com](http://aaComedy.com), 996-9080.

## 27 SUNDAY

★**"Fireside Fun": Leslie Science and Nature Center.** All invited to sit around a campfire, roast marshmallows, and swap stories. If you like, bring camping chairs and s'mores fixings. Rain or shine (except thunder and lightning), so come dressed for the weather. Masks required for age 4 & up. 6:30–8 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. Free, donations accepted. Capacity limited; preregistration required. [LeslieSNC.org](http://LeslieSNC.org), 997-1553.

## 30 WEDNESDAY

★**"Hands-On Holidays Winter Outdoor Creation": Leslie Science & Nature Center.** An afternoon of various family-friendly nature-based activities, featuring a self-guided scavenger hunt, birds of prey show-and-tell, and more. Masks required for age 4 & up. 1–4 p.m. LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. \$10 per person. Capacity limited; preregistration required. [LeslieSNC.org](http://LeslieSNC.org), 997-1553.

## 31 THURSDAY

★**"New Year's Eve Lama Chöpa and Tsoh Party": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All invited for socializing. The program begins with 2 traditional group prayers. 3–5 p.m., for online URL preregister at [JewelHeart.org/events](http://JewelHeart.org/events). Free. 994-3387.

★**"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Zen Buddhist Temple.** All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. It is repeated at 11:30 a.m. on January 1. 7–8 p.m., online at [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) (search "Ann Arbor Zen Temple"). Free. [AnnArborZenTemple@gmail.com](mailto:AnnArborZenTemple@gmail.com).

★**"New Year's Eve with Pete Siers": Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran local drummer Siers, with clarinetist Dave Bennett and pianist Cliff Monear. 7:30 p.m., online at [KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/nye-with-pete-siers](http://KerrytownConcertHouse.com/month/december-2020/nye-with-pete-siers). Free. [kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com](mailto:kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com).

# kids calendar (age 12 & under)

Daily through Dec. 24: **Santa: Briarwood mall.** All kids invited to visit with Santa from a distance; photos available for purchase. Masks required. Note: Santa takes breaks 3–4 p.m. Mon.–Sat. only. Noon–8 p.m. (Mon.–Sat.) and noon–6 p.m. (Sun.), Briarwood Von Maur court. Appointments required at [SimonSanta.com](http://SimonSanta.com); walk-ins available the first and last hour of each day only. 769-9610.

Every Wed. (11 a.m.): **Storytime: Nicola's Books.** Livestream picture book readings for kids in preK & kindergarten by Nicola's booksellers and guests TBA. Online at [Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2](http://Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2). Free. [NicolasBooks.com](http://NicolasBooks.com).

Every Wed. (1–3 p.m.) & Sun. (10 a.m.–noon), except Dec. 23, 27, & 30: **"Rescue Reading": Humane Society of Huron Valley.** All ages 6–11 invited to read to adoptable animals. Also, a group read-aloud, humane education lesson, and dog meet and greet. Masks required, social distancing enforced. Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill. \$10 per kid, preregistration required at [hshv.org](http://hshv.org). [humaneed@hshv.org](mailto:humaneed@hshv.org), 661-3575.

Dec. 3 & 17 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Storytime": Humane Society of Huron Valley.** Stories, crafts, finger plays, a tour of the adoptable cat area, and a dog meet and greet. For ages 2–5 (with caregiver); masks required for all kids age 5 & up. Social distancing

enforced. Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill. \$5 per person (babies age 11 months & under, free), preregistration required. [hshv.org](http://hshv.org), 661-3575.

Dec. 3 (5:30 p.m.): **"Storytime with Denise Brennan-Nelson": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Howell writer Brennan-Nelson reads from 2 of her recent Christmas-themed picturebooks, *Good Night, Reindeer* and *Santa's Secret*. Online at [LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-storytime-w-denise-brennan-nelson](http://LiteratiBookstore.com/event/home-literati-storytime-w-denise-brennan-nelson). Free, donations accepted. 585-5567.

Every Sun. (2 p.m.): **"Kerry Tales with Mother Goose."** 5–10 minute long virtual program of rhymes, riddles, & stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. Archived performances available at [bit.ly/kerrytales](http://bit.ly/kerrytales). Online at [Facebook.com/Kerrytown](http://Facebook.com/Kerrytown). Free. [contact@kerrytown.com](mailto:contact@kerrytown.com).

Every Mon. (11–11:30 a.m.): **"Baby Time": Ann Arbor District Library.** All infants through 2-year-olds (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to this program of songs, rhymes, movements, stories, and other activities. Online at [AADL.tv](http://AADL.tv).

Dec. 11 (5:30–9 p.m.): **"Pets and Pajamas Movie Night": Humane Society of Huron Valley.** All ages 5–11 invited to watch the popular animated film, *Ice Age*, and interact

with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. Masks required, social distancing enforced. Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill. \$35 (additional children, \$15), preregistration required (capacity limited to 10 participants). [hshv.org](http://hshv.org), 661-3575.

Dec. 12 (1–3 p.m.): **"Solstice Celebration": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** All ages 7–11 invited to share some of their favorite moments in nature with others around a bonfire. Hot drinks. Led by WCPARC naturalists Elle Bogle and Kelsey Dehring. One parent welcome to lurk for free. Masks required. Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. Free. Capacity limited; preregistration required at [ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org](http://ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org) (search Activity #821004).

Dec. 12 (1–3 p.m.): **"40th Annual Winter Festival": Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor.** Featuring virtual craft demos, storytelling, and a magic show. Geared towards kids in grades K–5. Raffle for accompanying adults. 1–3 p.m., for online URL see [SteinerSchool.org](http://SteinerSchool.org). Free. 995-4141.

# Memorials

## Share a memorial tribute in the AnnArborObserver

Text only or include a photo.

Rates are \$7 per line, or fraction of a line,  
per insertion (six line minimum).

\$200 per photo up to 1.75 inches wide  
by 2 inches high.

Memorials will run in the next open issue.

Email: [classifieds@aaobserver.com](mailto:classifieds@aaobserver.com)

Please include your name and  
contact information.



**BARBARA GAIL MURPHY (STEINBERG)**

Barbara Murphy, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away on October 10, 2020, with her husband at her side, after a sudden and brief illness, at the University of Michigan Hospital.

Barbara made Ann Arbor's Old West Side her home—where, since 1964, she was a beloved neighbor, friend, and activist—and the University of Michigan her professional home.

Through both her professional work and her community service Barbara exercised her passion for working for a socially just world. Her many volunteer commitments included serving on the Boards of the Guild House Campus Ministries, Old West Side Association, and the Huron Valley Girl Scout Council Finance Committee. She was elected for three terms to be a member of the Ann Arbor District Library Board of Trustees.

She is survived by her husband, Gavin Eadie, her sister Lynda Steinberg (Tony Jiga) of Manhattan, New York, and her niece Alexandra Jiga (Geoff Abbott) of Rockland, Maine.

You may leave memories of Barbara at: <https://tinyurl.com/bgm-memorial>



**NITA JOYCE (NIVIN) SWARTOUT**

Nita Joyce (Nivin) Swartout, age 86, of Addison, MI, passed away at her home on October 17, 2020.

Nita Joyce, or Joyce, as she was more commonly known, was born on December 19, 1933, in Meridian, Texas, the second child born to A.C. and Mary (Spitzer) Nivin.

Joyce attended the Meridian Public Schools. After graduating near the top of her class at Meridian High School, Joyce attended the University of Texas in Austin, and then transferred to Sul Ross Teachers College in Alpine, Texas, in her junior year. She earned both her bachelors and masters degrees from Sul Ross.

On June 1, 1953, she married her high school sweetheart, Arvey Swartout. They were married for 67 years, and had three children: Lynita, Deanna, and Monica.

She began her teaching career in Odessa, Texas, and after a move to Michigan in 1960, took a position at Roseville High School in Roseville, where she taught business subjects until her retirement. Joyce, Arvey, and their three daughters made their home in Warren, Michigan for over thirty years, and after retirement, built a home on Arvey's parents' farm in Addison, Michigan. They lived there until Joyce's passing.

Joyce had a spirit of adventure, borne

out by her travels to almost all the United States (including two summer-long road trips to Alaska), most of the Canadian provinces, Mexico, and throughout Europe. Though she enjoyed most destinations, Joyce especially loved the big skies of the western United States, not surprising, raised as she was in the wide open spaces of Texas. For over twenty years, she and Arvey spent every summer in Last Chance, Idaho, camping in their Airstream, close to some of the world's greatest fly-fishing rivers and most magnificent scenery.

Joyce was a kind, generous soul, both with her family and her community. After retirement, she spent many years volunteering, for South Macomb Hospital in Warren, at Fisher Theatre in Detroit, and in the Belle Isle Conservatory greenhouse. For many years, she was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa teacher sorority, the Addison Women's Club, and the Addison chapter of Kiwanis. Joyce's talents included needlework and basketry.

She deeply valued her many friendships. Having moved so far from her home and family in Texas, Joyce formed a close bond with many of her teacher colleagues and their families, her neighbors, and fellow church members. She so enjoyed the time they spent together, playing bridge and pinocle, investing with their stock club, traveling, bowling, fly-fishing, cross-country skiing, and camping.

During her years in Warren, Joyce was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church. She joined Addison United Church after moving to Addison. She was a longtime member of the choir in both congregations.

In her final weeks, as long as she was able, Joyce expressed her love to her family, over and over again. She was surrounded by those who loved her, not from a sense of obligation, but as a tangible expression of their devotion to this remarkable woman—wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Arvey Lynn Swartout, of Addison, MI, daughters, Deanna Marie Swartout-Corbeil (Randy), of Leonard, MI, and Monica Joy Swartout-Bebow (John) of Ann Arbor, MI, granddaughters, Emma Clare Corbeil and Delaney Katrina Bebow, sister, Violet (Nivin) Tabler, of Dallas, TX, nieces, Brenda Gray-Whately, of Plano, TX, and Laura Wheat, of Westlake, TX. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Lynita Louise Swartout, her parents, AC & Mary (Spitzer) Nivin, her mother- and father-in-law, John and Gladys (Branch) Swartout, a brother, AC Nivin, Jr, and brother-in-law, Earl Tabler.

Because of current COVID precautions, a memorial service is planned for a later date.



**FRANK LEGACKI**

Frank Legacki passed away on October 16, 2020 at the age of 81. The cause of death was metastatic prostate cancer.

Frank gave much more than was given to him and celebrated life like very few.

He kept in touch with elementary, high school, and college friends and people he met during his career and travels. By asking strangers about their lives, Frank made new friends. When Frank entered a room, he owned it. He avidly studied history and traveled the world. A supporter and lover of art, dance, music, fishing, cooking, and a "very, very dry martini, straight-up with a twist," Frank loved entertaining, throwing big parties, and cooking for family and friends. He said the best restaurant was his home. He loved children, and his undulating handshake always made kids laugh.

He loved his Alma Mater, the University of Michigan. He enjoyed any U of M event with the enthusiasm of a first-time attendee. Frank always carried an extra U of M cap to give to anyone in the world who captured his heart. Frank leaves many wonderful friends here and around the world. When Frank was close to the end of his life, he wrote sad and funny updates to family and friends. We will all miss him.

Frank was born on September 28, 1939 in Philadelphia to Frank Walter and Helen (Friel) Legacki. He was the oldest of eight children, six boys and two girls. The family lived in a modest, working-class row house in the Tacony section of Philadelphia. Frank's father was a Polish immigrant carpenter, and his mother was Irish. Frank was proud of his modest background; he felt it had given him a broad perspective on humanity and life.

Frank attended Father Judge High School, where he made the swimming team his freshman year, a pivotal event in his life. With no swimming pool at the school, Frank and his teammates traveled to pools 90 minutes away to train. Frank became a national Catholic high school champion and a Scholastic All-American. He

earned athletic scholarships from several universities. Both Michigan and Ohio State had strong swimming programs. His high school coach told him Michigan would be too difficult academically for him. Frank wanted to prove him wrong and chose Michigan.

As a sophomore Frank became an NCAA champion in 100-yard freestyle. Two weeks later, he set a record in the butterfly. Frank was an integral part of Michigan's 1959 NCAA championship team, considered the greatest swimming team in NCAA history. Michigan scored 138.5 points that year, more than the total of the next three teams combined. No team has dominated to that extent ever since.

In his senior year, Frank was captain of the Michigan team that won the NCAA championship. Frank won the 50-yard freestyle that year with a record time. In the national championships a few weeks later, he set another record in the 100-yard butterfly.

Frank was President of the Sigma Chi fraternity, a member of Michigamua, the top senior men's honorary, and on the board of directors of the Student Union.

After graduation, Frank married. He and his first wife had four daughters and divorced after 23 years.

Frank went on to earn an MBA at Michigan. His business career began in New York City at Ogilvy & Mather Advertising, and he became managing director of the strategic consulting group of Marketing Corporation of America, VP of marketing for Converse Athletic Footwear, founder and president of the Andover Consulting Group, and president of Kappa Athletic Footwear.

Later, Frank helped Alicia Torres organize a limited buyout of software products, and they formed Rosebud Solutions. The business was eventually acquired by McKesson, Inc. Frank went on to work part-time with Fletcher Spaght, Inc., a Boston venture capital firm.

Frank was loyal and grateful to U of M. He often said: "I was born at the University of Michigan; it was here I learned how to think." Frank was inducted into the University of Michigan Hall of Honor and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

He was president of the Grey Whales (swim boosters) and on the boards of the Letterwinners M Club, U of M Alumni Association, U of M Urology Center, and the marketing committee of the University Musical Society. Frank was also president of the Barton Hills Maintenance Corporation.

Frank married Alicia Torres, and together they started annually attending over 20 UMS performances and School of Music, Theatre & Dance events, and were supporters of the Michigan Theater. They

had season tickets for football, basketball, hockey, wrestling, softball, and swimming. They regularly fished in Florida and took many trips to exotic locations around the world.

Frank's greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren, Sam, Sophia, and Noah. He loved taking them fishing and to U of M events, and cooking together.

Frank is survived by the love of his life, best friend and wife, Alicia Torres; his pride and joy, daughter Lynn Flamand and her family—Ben, Sam, and Sophia—daughter Beth, her husband Mark Shockley, and their son, Noah; sisters Denise Tompkins and Jane Ferry and brother Paul Legacki.

Frank requested his epitaph be the last lines from "Cyrano de Bergerac." In the final scene, Cyrano lies in Roxanne's arms, mortally wounded, and utters his final words: "They have taken my life, but they have not taken my panache."



**MARGARET MARY STOREY**

Margaret Mary Storey passed away peacefully on October 22, 2020, with her devoted husband of 71 years, Alfred Storey, at her side. Margaret was born in Royal Oak, MI on May 14, 1926. She spent most of her childhood shuttling between foster homes in the Detroit area and supported herself during her teenage years by working two jobs while attending Cass Technical High School in Detroit. After graduation from Cass Tech, Margaret worked as a dental assistant in Detroit and Ann Arbor.

By no coincidence, Margaret's birthday often coincided with Mother's Day. Although her own childhood had challenges, she provided idyllic childhoods for her sons Scott (Sandy) of Okemos, MI and Kent of Santa Barbara, CA, and daughter Lynn of Santa Barbara, CA. Margaret's skill and creativity in arts and crafts made her a wonderful Cub Scout and Brownie leader, elementary school room mother, and church school teacher. She was very proud of her 6 grandchildren and adored her 5 great-grandchildren.

Margaret had kind blue eyes and a gentle demeanor. She had an independent spirit, clever sense of humor, and burning desire to help others. Margaret devoted much of her life to enriching the lives of children through arts and crafts. She was a volunteer teacher's assistant at several Ann Arbor elementary schools, and the "craft lady" for many years at Calvary United Methodist Church. She conducted home visits with preschool students through the Federal Head Start program for 10 years and was a volunteer at the Ann Arbor Scrap Box (now SCRAP Creative Reuse) for 20 years.

Margaret enjoyed travel, books and movies, although she sometimes had to leave the room during suspenseful scenes in TV movies, usually sneaking a peek from around the corner. She was a devoted fan of University of Michigan sports, attending 50 seasons of UofM football and 67 seasons of UofM basketball. She was an excellent baker, and her pies and cookies were the highlight of every family gathering. She took delight in passing out her chestnut-shaped chocolate/peanut-butter/krispy treats, inviting others to "take a bite out of a buckeye."

Margaret Mary you're so sweet, loving you was really a treat.

# Classifieds

## Lessons

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

**Offering Violin Lessons for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.** Experienced violin teacher, trained in Suzuki and traditional technical methods, with former prize-winning students. \$60/hr, virtual lessons available. Contact Colleen Wang at wangc29@gmail.com (www.colleenmusic.com).

## Wanted

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

**ALWAYS BUYING JUNK CARS**  
Cash paid. Open Mon.-Sat. DK Towing  
(734) 368-5088

**Research Scientist needed in Ann Arbor, MI.** Work w/ automated driving & map algorithms for autonomous vehicles. Send resume to headquarters: Toyota Research Institute (Attn: John Wong), 4440 El Camino Real, Los Altos, CA 94022

**Seeking Sushi Chef—Will Train!**  
Daytime hours. Must Speak English. Full/Part Time Available. Willing to train, must have kitchen experience. Call (248) 989-8899 (leave name and message).

## For Sale

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

**LifeScienceAudio.com**  
An Ann Arbor-based curated audiobook portal focusing on the grandeur of life.  
www.LifeScienceAudio.com

**Silver Spoon Antiques**  
42 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti.  
We have thousands of pieces of vintage jewelry as well as purses, hats, gloves, and vintage clothing. We buy.

## Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

**ISPY CONTEST**  
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 63? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

**FAKE AD CONTEST**  
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

## Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

## Home

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Carpentry ★ Plumbing ★ Electrical  
Kitchens ★ Baths ★ Basements  
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(734) 545-4859 BillBoring2@gmail.com

### Handyman for All Seasons

Drywall, painting, furniture repair, fix leaks, repair outlets, etc. Jared at (734) 223-5622 or jdwarshuis@gmail.com.

**Professional & Affordable Housekeeper**  
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To advertise, email, fax, or mail your ad info to the address below by the 10th of the month.

Rates are \$7 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion (two line minimum). Ads will run in the next open issue.

Mail, email, or fax your ad to:

Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds  
2390 Winewood Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375  
Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

## Something to Celebrate?

Announce an engagement, wedding, birthday, or any special occasion. Text only or include a photo.  
Call for more information: (734) 769-3175

## Dear Readers,

### Please confirm your FREE subscription.

You may call our office to confirm at 734.769.3175, fill out the form below and mail it to our office, or email the information to subscribe@aaobserver.com. The confirmation is good for 3 years.

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Since 1976, the Observer has been a locally owned community resource. We want to continue to provide the Observer to all permanent Ann Arbor residents and chamber members in Washtenaw County. We are making every effort to keep costs in line and maintain our commitment to quality. **Please take a few minutes to confirm your FREE subscription.** Or become an Observer Friend! See page 62 for more information.

Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia  
Publisher



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# Real Estate

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**921 Woods Drive, Ypsilanti**—This sophisticated Tudor built by renowned architect R.S. Gerganoff will not disappoint. Sandstone exterior, slate roof, copper gutters and expert craftsmanship create a one of a kind treasure. Updated kitchen with custom cabinetry, granite counters, chef's stove, huge island and built-in pantry is open to the family room. Mahogany formal dining room and generous living room each with their own fireplaces create the perfect space for entertaining. 4-Seasons sunroom and patio offer great views of the garden. Generous owner's suite with ensuite bath has separate tub, shower and vanity. 3 additional bedrooms and 2 baths upstairs plus apartment/studio with ensuite bath and 2nd staircase. Art deco tile and sinks have been maintained in all bathrooms. Must see ballroom on 3rd floor. Step into the 1940's finished lower level with classic bar, rec room with wood burning fireplace, half bath and 2nd kitchen. Updated windows, hardwood floors and walnut doors throughout. Truly a hidden gem in a wonderful location; Rutherford Pool and city park across the street, within walking distance to downtown Ypsilanti and library, quick drive to St Joe's Hospital, U of M and expressway entrance. \$625,500. #3277392.

**For more information please visit [www.KimPeoples.com](http://www.KimPeoples.com).**

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**DEXTER** - This 5-bedroom, 4-bath architectural gem is simply stunning. Custom-built with the highest standards of materials and craftsmanship you will be amazed by the quality and space of this truly one-of-a-kind home. This home rests on a private 2.5-acre lot with complete privacy and surrounded by nature. Interior highlights include two-story great room, open concept kitchen with quartz countertops, luxury master suite with walk-in closet and spa-like bath, and finished walkout basement. \$769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**CENTENNIAL PARK** - This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. \$759,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**SAGINAW HILLS** - Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home on a dramatic 1.6-acre setting just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor in Scio Township. You will love the hilltop setting with panoramic views, extensive landscaping, great deck, and private backyard. The home features a 4-car garage, remodeled maple kitchen, open concept family room, incredible 4-season sunroom, luxury master suite, and flex-use bonus room area. \$684,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**STONEBRIDGE** - Stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath former Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The setting of this home is wonderful with great landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior has been completely remodeled and is gorgeous. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the home, cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room with fireplace, paneled den, luxury master suite with new bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$629,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**ARBORETUM** - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home on one of the best lots in this very popular neighborhood walking distance to downtown Saline. You will love the setting of this home with a spacious backyard, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior sparkles with many recent updates. Features include two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the 2nd level, and finished walkout basement. \$499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**HERITAGE FALLS CONDO** - Stunning 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath ranch condo in one of the most convenient locations you'll see. You will love living walking distance to restaurants and shopping and just minutes to I-94 and UM campus. The interior is loaded with quality finishes. Features include great room with fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, 2nd bedroom suite, and 3rd bedroom that makes a perfect den. \$489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**NEW LISTING - WALK TO UM STADIUM** - Sharp 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch just minutes to schools, shopping, and downtown Ann Arbor. You will love this charming neighborhood and a great setting with fenced backyard. The interior is fantastic and includes a welcoming living room with fireplace, updated kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, master bedroom with two closets, 3 additional bedrooms, 2 baths, and partially finished basement. \$419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**HOMETOWN VILLAGE** - This very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home is just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and UM campus in one of the area's most desired neighborhoods. You will love the setting of this home including the large deck and great patio. The interior is fantastic and features 10' first floor ceilings, open concept floorplan, living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, great kids' bedrooms, and partially finished basement with view out windows. \$399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**SALINE** - This charming 4-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath turn-of-the-century two-story has been beautifully restored and is just blocks from the heart of downtown Saline. You will love being walking distance to shopping and restaurants from this historic home. Features include hardwood flooring and stained original trim throughout, spacious living room, formal dining room, family room, remodeled kitchen with great combination of original and modern touches, great bedroom space upstairs, and remodeled bath. \$319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**ANN ARBOR CONDO** - This 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath townhome condo was the model home for this complex and is loaded with quality upgrades. You will love the location just minutes to UM central campus and US-23. This end-unit condo features a great open concept floor plan. Features include maple kitchen with granite counters, living room with fireplace, great master suite with vaulted ceiling, attached bath, and walk-in closet, and finished lower level. \$319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**NEW LISTING - SALINE** - Very upgraded 3-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath ranch on a quiet cul-de-sac lot walking distance to downtown Saline. You will love the setting with great landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior features a welcoming living room, kitchen with painted white cabinets and granite counters, oversized master bedroom, updated baths, and finished lower level with rec room, bedroom, bath, and den. \$289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**ANN ARBOR CONDO** - Very sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch condo in Walden Village. You will love this very convenient location on Ann Arbor's west side just minutes to shopping and UM Central campus. The unit has a great setting with views of Dicken Woods from your private patio. The interior features fresh paint and new flooring throughout. Features include large living room with lots of natural light. Spacious kitchen, nice master suite with attached bath, 2 additional bedrooms, and a partially finished basement. \$249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**ANN ARBOR HILLS** - Mid-century modern inspired 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath ranch walking distance to UM central campus, the Arboretum, and Gallup Park. This home rests on a gorgeous lot with extensive landscaping, paver patios, and complete privacy. The interior is fantastic featuring great room with vaulted, beamed ceiling and fireplace, renovated kitchen, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level with great rec space. \$1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**NEW LISTING - WALNUT RIDGE** - Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home by Toll Brothers in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Very convenient location just minutes to schools, shopping, and UM campus. The house is fantastic with many updates and perfect decor. Features include large backyard, deck and screened porch, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**BELLEVILLE LAKE** - This 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built colonial rests on one of the incredible lake front settings you will ever see. You will be amazed by the panoramic views of this all sports lake. The home is gorgeous. Features include all brick exterior, new kitchen with custom cabinets, quartz counter tops, and stainless-steel appliances, family room with fireplace and lake views, luxury master suite with upper balcony and remodeled bath, great kids' bedrooms, finished 3rd floor, and 3 car garage. \$779,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



**PINES AT LAKE FOREST** - Incredible 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath Toll Brothers built home on a gorgeous lot in one of the area's most desired neighborhoods. This home is beautiful with one the finest interiors you will see on the market today. Highlights include dramatic two-story foyer, custom kitchen with granite counters and Wolf range, open concept two-story foyer with stack stone fireplace, luxury master suite with sitting area and spa-like bath, and great kids' bedrooms. \$769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

# Reinhart

## LUXURY HOMES

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### 8690 Rushside Dr, Pinckney

Sunset views from this custom 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on an all sports Rush Lake. Open concept, covered porches, 3-season porch overlooks lake, fireplace, 2.5-car garage, dock included. \$625,000. Alice Roderick 734-646-0797. #3277299



### 4242 Pearl Ct, Dexter

Custom 6 bedroom, 4 full, 1 half bath on approx. 2 acre wooded lot in Sandhill neighborhood. No detail missed! Finished lower level, deck, screened porch, 3-car garage. Great location! \$650,900. Felice Fergel 734-223-4455. #3276675



### 208 South St, Downtown Chelsea

Beautifully, pristinely restored 137-year-old Queen Anne Victorian, no detail missed! 4,919 sq. ft., parquet floors, restored moldings, doors and balustrades, gorgeous wrap-around porch. \$799,900. Jean Wedemeyer 734-604-2523. #3275799



### 3035 Foxcroft St, Ann Arbor

Picture perfect 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial. Cherry kitchen, large family room, living room and formal dining. Library and office space. Finished lower level, 2.5-car garage. Don't miss! \$998,000. Kim Peoples 734-646-4012. #3277312



### 213 W Kingsley St, Downtown Ann Arbor

Sophisticated ranch condo next to Fish Park in 3 unit building. Walk to Kerrytown, downtown and the Y. Exceptionally designed open floor plan, 10 ft. ceilings and floor to ceiling glass. \$1,295,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3276742



### 1802 Judd Rd, Saline Schools

Rare opportunity! 3,892 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath on a hilltop with 4.73 acres and beautiful views. Gourmet kitchen, 2-story great room with fireplace, study, 4-car garage, 32x40 pole barn. \$625,000. Elke VanDyke 734-635-3150. #3276963



### 1210 Wells St, Ann Arbor

Classic Burns Park home with original woodwork and refinished hardwood floors throughout. French doors open to formal living. Charming front porch, fenced backyard with deck and shed. \$660,000. Patti Eddy 734-646-2705. #3275876



### 505 E Huron St #307, Sloan Plaza

One of the coolest condos in Ann Arbor! 3 covered parking spaces, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces, spacious office area. Generous deck complete with patio furniture and fire pit! \$850,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3277270



### 9989 Dexter Chelsea Rd, Lima Twp.

Completely updated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath all-brick home on 13 acres. Over 4,800 livable sq. ft. including 1,300 sq. ft. bonus room. Attached 7-car garage, 4,600 sq. ft. outbuilding. \$1,100,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3274692



### 2211 Devonshire Rd, Ann Arbor Hills

A rare find! 3,024 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath built in 1929 on .53 acre. Includes adjacent .58 acre lot with tennis court. Lovely period charm enhanced with updates and additions. \$1,399,000. Jean Wedemeyer 734-604-2523. #3276922



### 7905 Grand Street, Grandview Commons

New construction luxury condo steps to downtown Dexter! 2-5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with loft and den. Gorgeous island kitchen, 2nd floor laundry, mudroom. 2-car garage. Many upgrades! \$630,000. Jessica Singer 734-780-5526. #3263293



### 930 Catherine St, Ann Arbor

Luxurious, turn-key end unit townhome within walking distance to UM med center and campus. 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, hardwood floors, 2nd floor laundry, attached 2.5-car garage. \$739,900. Janet McAllister 734-231-3508. #3275880



### 208 W William St, Downtown Ann Arbor

Fabulous end unit town-home backing to proposed Ann Arbor greenbelt park. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, attached 2-car garage, Brazilian hardwood floors, many updates. Professionally landscaped. \$875,000. Ed Ridha 734-645-3110. #3273332



### 8624 Fox Hill Ct, Dexter

Wow-factor included in this 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath on 4.64 acres. Finest finishes, walls of windows, open-concept, soaring ceilings, finished walkout. Outdoor oasis with pool, tennis court and more. \$1,125,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3277061



### 218 W Kingsley, 401, Kingsley Condos

Stunning, brand new 4th floor end unit in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor! Patio with southern exposure, city views. 2,638 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Master suite with luxury bath. \$1,400,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3269371



### 606 Linda Vista St, Westside/Arborview

Charismatic 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath in desirable area filled with character with modernized/renovated open floor plan. White kitchen with granite, sunroom, finished basement, fab backyard! \$649,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3277417



### 13591 Macon Rd, Saline

Stunning, custom log home on 35 wooded acres with in-ground pool, pasture, shed, outbuilding and more. Well maintained, chef's kitchen, wood floors, walkout lower level. Township taxes. \$750,000. Tammi Ebenhoeh 734-276-4663. #3276111



### 133 Ashley Mews, Ashley Mews

Newly renovated brownstone just one block from downtown Ann Arbor! 2,466 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 full, 1 half bath, high-end construction, owner's suite with California Closets. 2-car garage. \$950,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3276269



### 3212 W Dobson Pl, Northeast Ann Arbor

This stunning home in The Woodlands on a spectacular wooded lot bordering 20 acre university greenbelt. 4,200 sq. ft. plus a finished lower level. Magnificent views will take your breath away! \$1,150,000. Matt Miller 734-476-4869. #3265530



### 8786 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor

30 Acre country estate in Ann Arbor, minutes to town offers privacy and serenity. Stunning 5,500 sq. ft. home. Plenty of room for animals. Professionally landscaped. Dexter schools. \$1,449,900. Jeff Klink 734-260-7483. #3266930



### 5004 Lohr, Ann Arbor

Stunning 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in sought after area on 0.82 scenic acre. Gourmet kitchen, private living room, fantastic backyard with in-ground pool. Great location. Township taxes. \$649,900. Snow Liao 734-678-4848. #3271675



### 3225 W Ellsworth, Lodi Township

Absolutely gorgeous, Craftsman style, custom ranch home on 2.5 acres with low township taxes. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2,770 sq. ft. on very private, landscaped wooded lot. \$750,000. Cynthia Cecala-Smigielski 734-395-9679. #3277374



### 285 Brittany Ln, Saline

Gorgeous, custom home on 1.2 acres. 5,302 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 6 full, 1 half bath, 4-car garage. End of cul-de-sac with extensive landscaping, mature trees, private access to sport court. \$990,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3275050



### 343 Eagle Ridge Ct, Scio Township

Custom brick home on a private acre. Impeccably designed and meticulously maintained. 1st floor master, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 4,610 sq. ft. plus 2,800 sq. ft. basement, 4-car garage. \$1,180,000. Chris Marten 734-546-0282. #3275040



### 2010 Devonshire Rd, Ann Arbor

Beautifully preserved 1920s Tudor with 4 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths. Warm and enchanting interior, finished lower level, 4-season English conservatory with views of gardens and yard. \$2,600,000. John Sloan 734-358-7895. #3276357

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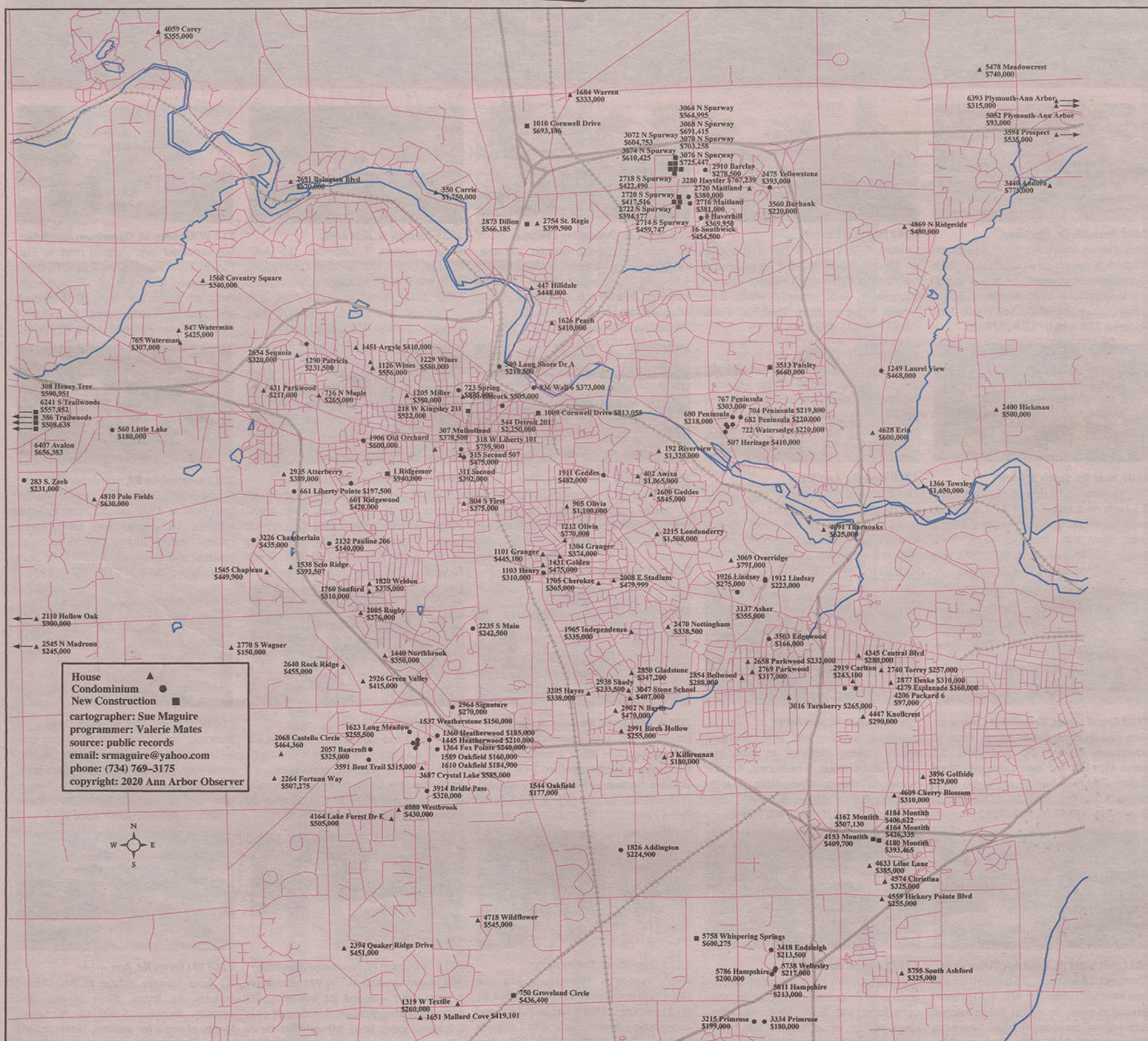
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# OCTOBER 2020

## HOME SALES



Sales prices are up on single-family homes in the Arbor School District. The 980 homes that sold from January through October averaged \$470,356, up 2.4 percent from the same period last year.

Condominium prices in the school district are down 1.6 percent, from an average of \$288,783 in the first ten months of 2019 to \$284,083 through October 2020. But one of those 568 sales on this month's map set an all-time record for a condo sold locally. 544 Detroit St., the site of a former Clark gas station, was listed in 2012 at \$149,500 and marketed as being "ideal for a small office, retail, or service business." Instead, the small concrete-block building with an angled glass

front was torn down and replaced by a three-story, flatiron-shaped condo. Originally planned as multiple units, it's now a single large residence with five bedrooms, three baths, three balconies, covered parking, and elevator access to its 3,551 square feet of living space. It's on the map this month at \$2,250,000.

Sixteen percent of the recorded property transfers in the City of Ann Arbor were new construction. Leading the way was the North Oaks of Ann Arbor subdivision by Toll Brothers with eleven condominium sales, ranging from a three-story, 2,038-square-foot townhome on S. Spurway for \$394,177 to a 2,583-square-foot, three-bedroom, 2.5-bath "villa" on Hay-

ster for \$767,238. Advertised community amenities include a clubhouse with pools, a fitness center, a billiard room, and a yoga studio. The price of the eleven North Oaks units on this month's map averaged \$578,315. Downtown, a new 1,198-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bath unit in the Kingsley Condominiums sold for about \$50,000 less—it's on the map at 218 W. Kingsley for \$522,000. It came with one parking spot and access to a fitness center and rooftop terrace.

Not all new construction takes place in popular pockets near downtown or big developments on the outer edges of Ann Arbor. In the northeast Glacier Highlands neighborhood, 3513 Paisley

Ct. went for \$660,000—an address that last sold in August 2019 for \$149,000 as a burned-out shell. The new home on the site is a 2,331-square-foot, five-bedroom, 3.5-bath colonial with an attached two-car garage prepped for an electric car.

New—for its time—was any home designed by the late Bob Metcalf. Like many of the sixty-eight local Metcalfs, the 1955 home at 447 Hilldale has been expanded a number of times to its current stature of 2,536 square, with five bedrooms and two baths, still has the original kitchen configuration. It went for \$448,000.

—Sue Maguire

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The Fake Ad and I Spy contests are a beloved tradition in the monthly Ann Arbor Observer. Jay Forstner and Sally Bjork collected some of their favorites in two new books.

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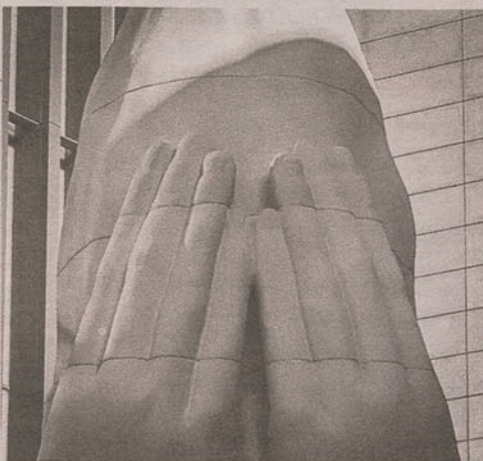
# Back Page

## i spy

by Sally Bjork

"I spy a temporary art exhibit," writes Melina Adler, with plants in "whimsical and holed emery boards." Vicki Engel calls them the "interesting wood popsicle stick pieces at the corner of the Diag and North University." They remind Shannon Kohlitz of cacti, and Dan Romanchik of "cricket bats stuck in flower pots." The "colorful blades ... in buckets ... can be easily moved around" the intersection, points out Louisa Griffes, "hence the term 'ever-changing'" in the clue.

The installation by Studio Kaleidoscope—a group of U-M Architecture and Urban Planning alums—is a project of ReVIVE All Zones, a "tactical urbanism" project funded by the Downtown Development Authority and overseen by the Arts Alliance. The idea is to encourage

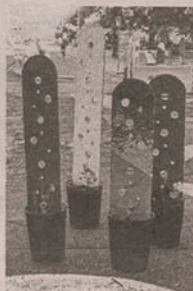


### An expression for 2020

people to imagine their surroundings in a new way. There's also a street mural covering the whole intersection. "It's a great burst of color!" says Andy Bayer.

We received twenty-one correct entries in November. Our random drawing winner is Daria Bizyaeva, who quips in response to the clue, "the big thing that doesn't change are the cracks and potholes" on the street. Bizyaeva will enjoy her \$25 gift certificate at the Produce Station.

To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.



## fake ad

by Jay Forstner

"Wow, thank you for introducing me to Yeats' lovely poem!" wrote frequent Fake Adder Janine Shahinian. "The teeny-tiny, fine print of the Fake Ad is certainly hysterical, but the discovery of Yeats' poem is just what I need right now ... How I long for my own special places where 'I shall have some peace there' if I were only allowed to travel to them!"

Shahinian's was one of 148 entries that correctly identified the Fake Ad for Cabins by Innisfree on page 51 of the November issue. The previous winner's name, "Frye," was hidden in the attribution below the poem: "Fr. Yeats'..." although several entries pointed out that "Frye" means "free" in German. We'd normally check online to see if that's true, but it's late, we're drinking wine, and we have our slippers on, so we'll take their word for it.

"As soon as I saw the ad, I took a photo and texted it to my sister, who used to work for a camp in northern Michigan named Innisfree, one of her favorite places on earth," wrote Sonia Zawacki. "We mused about finding enough wattles to build one of these structures, and then both laughed as we wondered, what the heck is a 'wattle?!' Google to the rescue. [What? You didn't have wine and slippers?] Very clever (and not too difficult, thank you!) and a much needed distraction for us both, during these kinda crazy days, as we walked down memory lane together."

"BTW, what are wattles?" asked Mitchell J. Rycus. Here goes: A wattle, according to Merriam-Webster, is "a fabrication of poles interwoven with slender branches, withes, or reeds and used especially formerly in building."

BTW, what are withes?

Iris Wang won our drawing and is taking her gift certificate to Zingerman's.



Order The Fake Ad and I Spy books at [AnnArborObserver.com/books](http://AnnArborObserver.com/books).

To enter this month's contests, send email to [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com). Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on December 10th will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

### Dear Observer Advertisers and Friends,

As 2020 draws to a close, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support. Thank you to our beloved local businesses for advertising; Observer Friends for generous contributions; and everyone who shared encouraging messages during this challenging year. Our commitment to community and dedication to independent journalism remains strong. You make it possible for us to persevere.

We are grateful to our health care workers, social service agencies, essential workers in service-related businesses, volunteers, and everyone who has risked their own personal safety to protect, provide, and care for others.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful holiday season, and a healthy, Happy New Year!

Patricia M. Garcia, John Hilton,  
and the Ann Arbor Observer staff

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# THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

**Congratulations** to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

**November winners:**  
**Alice M. and James K.**

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 56, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 10.

Thanks!  
Observer Staff



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## Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 49. Films: p. 53. Galleries: p. 52. Kids: p. 54. Seniors: p. 49.

► Reviewed in this issue. See p. 50.

All events are virtual unless otherwise noted.

### Concert Music

*classical, religious, cabaret*

- "Croissant Concert" (KCH), Dec. 5
- University Choral Union *Messiah* (UMS), Dec. 6–31
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 12
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 18
- "A Boychoir Christmas," Dec. 20
- NCC Christmas Concert, Dec. 20
- Takács Quartet (UMS), Dec. 21–31

### Vernacular Music

*pop, rock, jazz, & traditional*

- Singer-songwriter Molly Tuttle (bluegrass), Dec. 3 & 17
- Vocalist Darlene Love (pop-rock), Dec. 5
- Singer-songwriter John Doe (multi-genre), Dec. 16
- KCH Edgefest festival (jazz/avant), Dec. 18
- U-M Groove (percussion), Dec. 19
- Sacramento Knox (hip-hop), Dec. 21
- Israeli David Broza (singer-songwriter), Dec. 23

### Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *A Beautiful Country* (U-M SMTD), Dec. 2
- *Richard III* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 4–6 & 11–13.
- *My Ghostlight 2020* (U-M SMTD), Dec. 4, 11, & 18
- "Opera One-Acts" (U-M SMTD), Dec. 9–16
- *Proving Up* (U-M SMTD), Dec. 16–Jan. 16

- *I'm Streaming of an Alright Christmas* (Theatre Nova), Dec. 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, & 27

### Comedy & Storytelling

- Storyteller Noa Baum, Dec. 12
- Comic David Dyer (in-person), Dec. 18 & 19

### Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Jewish Book and Arts Festival, Dec. 2–5, 7, 9, 10, 12–17, 21, & 22
- Artist show & sales (different shows; both in-person and virtual), Dec. 4–23
- "Christmas on the Farm" (in-person), Dec. 5 & 6

### Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Fiction writer Bonnie Jo Campbell, Dec. 2
- Novelist Lauren Groff, Dec. 3 & 4
- Figurative artist Amy Cutler, Dec. 4
- U-M Nobel Symposium, Dec. 10

### Family & Kids' Stuff

- Read to adoptable pets (in-person), Dec. 2
- "Santa's Winter Wonderland Walk" (in-person), Dec. 13

### Miscellaneous

- Local barbershop harmony chorus, Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23
- *Nutcracker* drive-in screening (Ballet Chelsea), Dec. 4 & 5
- Drive-through Hanukkah celebration, Dec. 12
- "Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month
- Willis C. Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 19 & 22

## Memorials



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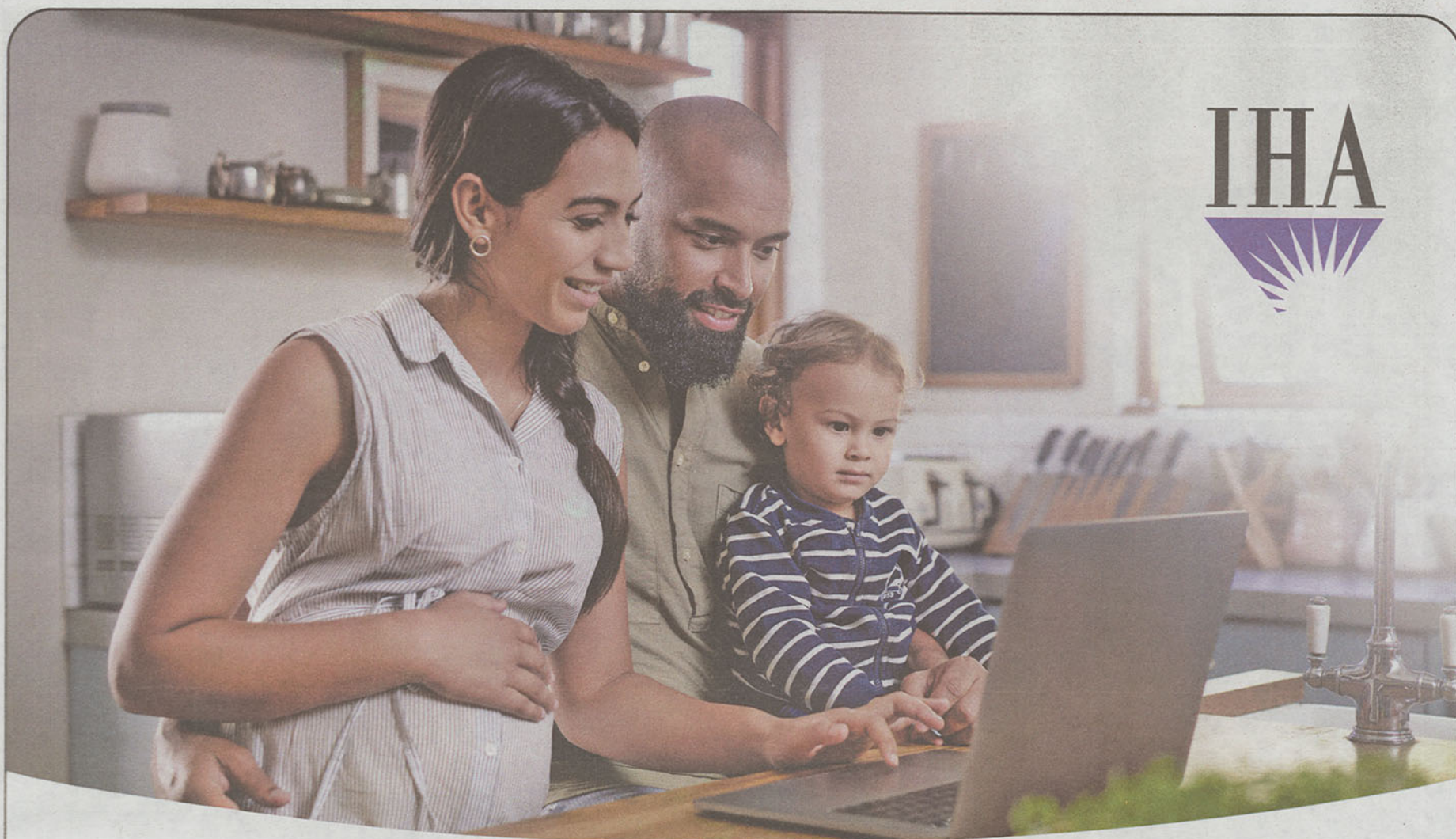
\$200 per photo up to 1.75 inches wide by 2 inches high.

Memorials will run in the next open issue.

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Please include your name and  
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November issue Memorials, page 57



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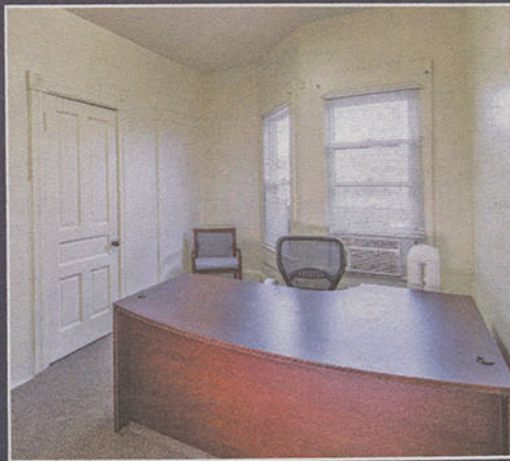
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